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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

Resignation

General Motors Corp. chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner will step down at the request of the White House.

BUSINESS...Page 14



Lone Gunman

A lone gunman burst into a North Carolina nursing home Sunday morning and started "shooting everything."

NATION...Page 15



Roasts & Reds

Kendall-Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef will hold the 2nd Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

WITH SECOND QUARTER ENDING TODAY

Govt overspends by \$2M-\$3M

Deficit at \$6.5M-\$7.5M as year reaches halfway mark

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

When the second quarter of the fiscal year ends today, the CNMI is expected to incur another deficit of several million dollars.

For the months of January through March, the CNMI government overspent by \$2 million to \$3 million, according to Finance Secretary Eloy Inos.

Added to last quarter's deficit of \$4.5 million, the government is looking at a growing deficit of \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million as

the fiscal year reaches the halfway point.

"Just looking at what happened, or didn't happen, we're probably looking at maybe on the expenditure side, the deficit side, probably about half the over-expenditure of the first

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Video lottery games proposed at La Fiesta

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



Inos

Finance Secretary Eloy Inos yesterday said Bridge Capital LLC is proposing to operate video lottery games at the long-vacant La Fiesta Mall in San Roque, but the proposal is still under review to make sure such activity is allowed under CNMI laws and regulations.

A contract award hinges on a favorable result of the review.

Bridge Capital LLC, which bought interest on the La Fiesta property in March 2007, was the only entity that responded to the government's request for proposal involving the lease, de-

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Tinian ILS project now suspended, not cancelled

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A meeting with CIP administrator Vicky Villagomez and officials of the Commonwealth Ports Authority yesterday changed the minds of the Tinian lawmakers on the fate of

the stalled instrument landing system project. It's been decided that the project will now be merely suspended until additional funds are identified for its realization.

Sen. Joseph Mendiola, legislative delegation chairman, dis-

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'MY STORY'

NMI Humanities Council chair Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, second left, presents a copy of the book, *Estoria-Hu*, and a plaque of appreciation to some of the children of the late author, Juan Aguon Sanchez, during yesterday's book launching at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. In photo are, from left, Maria S. Sablan, Cabrera, Fernando DLG. Sanchez, Bitilia DLG. Sanchez, Zita DLG. Sanchez, and Jesus DLG. Sanchez. *Estoria-Hu* is the third title published by the NMI Humanities Council under its Micronesian Authors Initiative established in 2004, and the first in that series written in the Chamorro language. See story on Page 5.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

7 students top Mathcourt regional



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Winners of the regional Mathcourt competition for upper grade levels pose after the awarding rites Saturday at Marianas High School campus. The Public School System is eyeing sending gold medal winners to off-island competitions starting next year.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Seven students from middle and high schools on islands were adjudged overall winners in the

final round of the 2009 CNMI Mathcourt regional competition held Saturday at Marianas High School.

Eric Park of Ladera International School won a gold

medal in high school algebra, while Grace Christian Academy's Jeon Dae Won topped high school geometry. Kagman High School's Terrence Duenas

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90 percent of KagES AC units are defective. PAGE 2
Jury selection begins in the trial of Villagomez. PAGE 2

Local

90 percent of KagES AC units are defective

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Almost all 60 units, or 90 percent, of Kagman Elementary School's air-conditioning units are either inefficient or defective, according to an inspection conducted by the school's technicians.

KagES principal Ignacia Demapan disclosed Saturday that since the school opened in 2000, these units were never replaced due to lack of funding.

KagES is home to 624 students from Kindergarten to fifth grade.

Six KagES classrooms are, in fact, operating without any air-

conditioning.

Since early last year, school's cafeteria has been using electric fans to diffuse the heat.

Demapan said the cost of replacing the cafeteria's air-conditioning units is \$35,000. The amount, she said, is unaffordable for them at this time.

The principal said the school is allocated a meager \$30,000 for operations and "all others" expenses for the entire year.

Because of this, any repair, whether minor and major, has been put on hold to sustain the urgent needs of students on campus.

"It's like weighing which part

is more important and which one is not...like drinking water versus aircon maintenance or toiletries versus aircon repair," Demapan said.

The local government is currently experiencing a severe drop in revenue and collections due to the death of the garment industry and the slump in tourist arrivals, resulting in limited budgets for agencies like public schools.

Last Saturday, a total of \$10,000 was raised by the school's PTA from its cultural day festivities.

Demapan said a big portion of that amount will be used to

procure fans for the classrooms and cafeteria.

"That's our major concern here in KagES. We need to buy more fans because every day the number of operational air-cons continue to drop and we're thinking of our students," she said.

The principal admitted that the replacement of all the rusty and dilapidated air-con units is the only solution for the school.

With the coming of the stimulus funds from the federal government, Demapan is hopeful that a resolution to the school's persistent problem will soon be reached.

CUC finishes rehab work on two engines

By **KRISTI EATON**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is expected to unveil today two overhauled engines, providing an additional 15 megawatts of power to the island.

In a memorandum, CUC executive director Antonio Muña invited House Speaker Arnold Palacios and Senate President Pete Reyes to join Gov. Benigno Fitial at the ceremony, which will take place at 2pm at the Power Plant 1 facility in Lower Base.

The rehabilitation of the two engines is one of the first steps the utility agency expects to take as it prepares for September, when the one-year contract for the emergency Aggreko generators concludes. Under the \$6 million contract, CUC has been renting 15 megawatts of power from Aggreko, ending the blackouts that had been plaguing the island for several months prior.

CUC must inform Aggreko by June whether it opts to extend the contract for another six months. But last week, Muña reiterated his earlier

statement that CUC will not need to extend the contract.

By June, Muña said, CUC's Power Plant 1 would produce approximately 40 megawatts of power. The plant is currently producing 9 megawatts. The two engines commissioned today—engines 3 and 7—will add 15 megawatts of power. With 14 megawatts coming from independently operated Power Plant 4 and six megawatts from Power Plant 2, the total of 60 megawatts should be more than enough for the island, Muña said.

"With the timeline falling into place, and the engines coming into place, governor, I think we can confidently report that our power productions issues have been resolved," the executive director said last week at a news briefing.

Why was CUC able to rehabilitate the engines this time around?

Muña said the effort had already begun prior to 2006, when the administration came into office, but the \$5 million Fitial secured from the Office of Insular Affairs last fall was

See CUC on Page 4

Jury selection begins in the trial of Villagomez

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Jury selection began yesterday in the trial of the CNMI's second most powerful government official—Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez—and his co-defendants, who are all facing bribery and wire fraud charges.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson will continue the jury selection today, Tuesday.

The media was not allowed to attend the jury selection as over

100 prospective jurors filled the courtroom. The court, however, will allow the media to cover the trial after the court selects the final 12 jurors who will decide the fate of Villagomez, James A. Santos and Joaquina V. Santos.

The judge had summoned 227 prospective jurors.

In a federal jury selection for a criminal case, a judge will select from the prospective jury pool 12 jurors plus one or two alternates.

After the jury selection, the prosecution and defense law-

yers will then hold their opening arguments.

At 7:45am yesterday, there was a long line of prospective jurors entering the Horiguchi Building for the orientation.

Seen outside the Horiguchi Building yesterday afternoon was former lieutenant governor and current congressman Diego T. Benavente, who was talking with former Senate president Juan Demapan, former House speaker Pedro R. Guerrero, and former congressman Benjamin Sablan.

Veteran defense lawyer Da-

vid Lujan and Tinian lawyer Joey San Nicolas are representing Villagomez. The Torres Brothers law firm is defending James Santos, while attorney Ramon Quichocho is counsel for Joaquina Santos.

The superseding indictment charged Villagomez and the Santos couple with bribery concerning a program receiving federal funds, conspiracy to defraud and to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds.



Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous at the Hyatt with Kendall Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

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Dress code Island formal

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RSVP

For information and bookings, please call 234-1234 ext. 26. Being a cocktail event we do not take table reservations.



GIOVANNI'S

Zoning Board employee arrested for bribery

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

An employee of the Saipan Zoning Board Office was arrested Friday for allegedly soliciting a \$200 bribe from a businessman in exchange for not citing his business due to

noncompliance with zoning rules on banner signs.

Jeffrey Dela Cruz, of Papa-go, was arrested by members of the Attorney General's Investigative Unit on Friday at 1:39pm in Dandan.

A \$10,000 cash bail was initially imposed for Dela Cruz's

temporary liberty. At yesterday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo imposed \$1,000 cash bail plus \$9,000 in unsecured bond for the defendant's temporary release.

Govendo set the arraignment for April 13 at 9am.

The judge ordered Dela Cruz not to contact Zhi Guang Li and stay away from Li's business, Z.Y. Li Corp., which owns Vegetables Plus in Puerto Rico. Govendo also barred Dela Cruz from contacting Li's two brothers.

AGO investigator Edward A. Pua stated in his report that on Feb. 25, 2009, he and another investigator interviewed Li, a Chinese, at the AGO's Investigative Unit/Immigration Enforcement Office on Capital Hill.

In the interview, Li stated that, on Feb. 17, 2009, at 11am, members of the Saipan Zoning Board conducted an inspection at Vegetables Plus.

Pua said Dela Cruz, a Zoning employee, told Li he was not complying with regulations by having an illegal banner sign.

Dela Cruz allegedly demanded \$100 from Li and that if he refuses, Dela Cruz would issue a citation for noncompliance with the zoning regulations.

Li stated that he told Dela Cruz that he could only pay \$50. Dela Cruz was allegedly not happy with the offer and informed Li that he would return.

On Feb. 21, 2009, at 1pm, Dela Cruz allegedly came to the establishment and stated he

could help Li with the requirements and paperwork. Li allegedly gave \$50 to Dela Cruz, who left after getting the money. After 10 minutes, Dela Cruz returned to the store and allegedly asked for \$150 more from Li.

Li stated that Dela Cruz assured him that all requirements and paperwork, including the citation dated Feb. 3, 2009, would be waived if Li pays the \$150. Dela Cruz allegedly assured that he would talk to his supervisor so that all requirements concerning Li's illegal banner sign will be waived.

Li strongly believes his company has already complied with the regulations.

On Feb. 27, 2009, Pua secured an eavesdropping warrant,

which was authorized by the Superior Court, to record the conversation between Li and Dela Cruz.

On March 3, 2009, Pua said, the recorded conversation between Li and Dela Cruz showed Dela Cruz admitting that he had received \$200 as payment from Li.

In addition, Pua said, Dela Cruz stated in the recorded conversation that should Li report the \$200 bribe to authorities, Dela Cruz would have some of his family members—who are allegedly members of a mafia—retaliate against Li and his family.

Attorney Eric Smith served as counsel for the defendant at the hearing. Special assistant attorney general Joseph J. Przyuski represented the government.

Fital to ask for work hour cuts

When Gov. Benigno Fital submits his Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal tomorrow, April 1, he will ask the Legislature to include austerity Fridays and 100 percent reprogramming authority in the future budget bill.

Fital will also ask to maintain the current employers' contribution rate of 11 percent and to suspend some public laws in order to reduce costs.

The measures are necessary in order to get the budget down to \$148 million — the amount expected to be generated locally for the year, said Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration.

During the last few months, each government department and agency has been submitting individual budget requests. The total had ballooned to \$176 million, so Fleming said the cost-reduction measures are necessary to meet the \$148 million limit.

Fital asked for the 11-percent retirement contribution rate, unpaid holidays, 12 austerity Fridays, and 100 percent reprogramming authority for the Fiscal Year 2009 budget.

In the final budget that became law this month, the

only cost-reduction was the measure cutting the employers' contribution rate from 18 percent to 11 percent.

But Fleming said the administration would once again ask for reduced work hours, this time 16 hours per pay period.

"It's going to be every Friday, in order for me to bring it down," Fleming said of the budget numbers. The administration also wants the suspension of the tobacco law, which earmarks funds to certain departments.

One hundred percent reprogramming authority, Fleming said, is essential.

"I think it's necessary because, then, if we need more than that, we have to go back and get approval [from the Legislature]," she said. "With the revenue that continues to decrease, I think it's important for the governor to have that opportunity to be able to reprogram when there is a need."

Tomorrow is the deadline for Fital to submit his budget proposal for the next fiscal year to the Legislature. By Sept. 1, the Legislature must transmit its final budget to the governor, in time for the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1.

(Kristi Eaton)

NBC crew here to do feature on Friends of the Monument

A team from national television network NBC is currently on Saipan to do a series of stories on the Friends of the Monument, which was the main proponent of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

Angelo Villagomez of the Friends of the Monument said the three-member NBC crew will do a feature on the events of 2008 on Saipan that led to the Jan. 6, 2009, declaration of then-President George W. Bush of 190,000 square miles of ocean as marine monuments, including the 95,000-square mile Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument is an area around the three northernmost islands in the CNMI—Uracas or Farallon de Pajaros, Maug and Asuncion.

Villagomez said the NBC team, which arrived early yesterday morning, will also be featuring the "wonders" of the Marianas, which will take them

to some of the most popular dive spots in the CNMI.

"They will also be talking about how the Marine Monument will be enforced and managed, so they will be talking to the U.S. Coast Guard and other federal agencies. There will also be talks with a research ship that's doing studies on volcanoes off Rota," said Villagomez.

He said NBC is just one of the many national and international media firms that have taken an interest in the Friends of the Monument and the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency earlier announced that the Friends of the Monument are the recipients of the 2009 EPA Environmental Award, which recognizes individuals and groups outside of the USEPA who are making significant contributions to improve the environment. The ceremony will take place on April 16. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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Yana's, Atalig's motion to stay detention placed under advisement

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Superior Court yesterday placed under advisement Reynaldo O. Yana's

and Antonio M. Atalig's joint motion to stay associate judge Kenneth Govendo's order that sent them back to jail.

After listening to the arguments by Yana and Atalig's counsel, F. Douglas

Cushnie, and Angel Malite heirs' lawyers F. Mathew Smith and Stephen Nutting, Judge Govendo said he will issue a written decision.

Atalig asserted that the order should be stayed pending the decision of the CNMI Supreme Court on their appeal. Yana joined Atalig's motion.

Smith opposed the motion to stay. Nutting also joined in the opposition to the motion.

Smith told *Saipan Tribune* after the hearing that the court should not stay the order as Yana and Atalig never intended to comply with the court's order that directed them to return \$1.3 million in attorneys' fees.

Smith said Nutting also submitted a list of properties that Atalig could have sold to satisfy the court's order.

Smith said Atalig and Yana never complied with the court's order.

Last Jan. 28, Govendo ordered

the continued detention of Yana and Atalig, denying them attorneys' fees. Govendo said the two owe \$1,288,500 to the Malite estate.

In a written order, Govendo said Atalig is to be imprisoned until he returns the attorneys' fees in the amount of \$500,000. The judge said Yana is to be jailed until he returns attorneys' fees in the amount of \$200,000.

Govendo said upon their release from the Department of Corrections, after having paid their respective amounts as ordered, Atalig and Yana shall then repay the remainder owed the Malite estate, until the full amount of \$1.28 million has been repaid.

Atalig, through Cushnie, has appealed Govendo's order to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Atalig and Yana have been in jail since March 2008.

Operation nets 14 for prostitution, other crimes

A two-day joint task force operation conducted by members of federal and local law enforcement agencies resulted in the arrest of 14 persons, mostly for allegedly engaging in prostitution.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that of the 14 arrested, all Chinese, 12 women were nabbed for prostitution activities in Garapan and Susupe.

Ogumoro said one man was apprehended for illegal possession of a controlled substance and trafficking of a controlled substance in Garapan.

She said the other man was picked

up for operating an illegal taxi in the parking lot of the Bank of Hawaii.

"All the arrestees were later booked and detained at the Department of Corrections," Ogumoro said.

She said the two-night operations were conducted Friday and Saturday by members of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, DPS Criminal Investigation Division, U.S. Marshal Service, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

The suspects were taken to the Superior Court yesterday afternoon for a bail hearing. *(Ferdie dela Torre)*

MATH

From Page 1

was hailed champion in high school advanced algebra.

Outstanding students in the middle school division included Hopwood Junior High's John Paul Maglubat (numbers), Ladera International's Kevin Park (algebra), Saipan International School's Harry Jun (geometry and measurement), and Hopwood's Jesse Santos (data statistics probability).

A total of 192 finalists from 17 middle and high schools took part in the Mathcourt regional.

Dora Miura, Mathcourt coordinator for the 6-12th grade division, said participants in Saturday's competition had already won ribbon and medals during the first four preliminary competitions conducted since October.

Organized by the National Forensic League board in collaboration with the Public School System, the Mathcourt competition was formed in accordance with the public school's benchmarks

and standards to promote student learning.

Though it is not patterned after any national math competitions, Miura disclosed that PSS is looking at sending delegates to off-island math contests next year.

She said they are already evaluating members of next year's delegation to the off-island events.

"This year is a little bit late [for us to send teams in the national math events] because we just finished our regional rounds. However, we're working on something next year," she said.

Besides Mathcourt, the CNMI also had the Mathcounts competition, organized by EFC Engineers & Architects. It is temporarily suspended due to the bad economy.

"Our basic objective is to promote student learning. We do that by making them aware of the PSS benchmarks, which we use as guidelines for creating questions. The more we do this, the more teachers will look at those benchmarks while students will try to learn them for the competition. In the end,

they do better in test scores, better in class, and appreciate math a little better than before," the coordinator said.

Gold medal winner Eric Park from LISS said questions in last weekend's regionals were very challenging.

"I find the problems today very challenging...and interesting. It made me think more carefully and I am happy I was able to solve them," the 11th grader told *Saipan Tribune* after competing in the final round of algebra.

This year marked Park's first participation in the CNMI Mathcourt.

"I enjoyed the whole experience... and I'm looking forward to next year's Mathcourt events," he said.

A consistent participant since second grade, Eucon International School eighth grader Philip Miral said Mathcourt is more than a competition for him.

"I've been joining since I was in my second grade and I enjoy each year's experience. Yes, it may be tiring... but the whole experience is worth it," he said, adding that he has met new friends through the events.

"So we will need to see if that objective or proposal would address many of the concerns about the proliferation of poker machines throughout the island. We will have to take a look at that if that's going to be a reasonable compromise," said Inos.

The Finance official said the empty La Fiesta Mall is currently open to any poker parlor operator who wants a space in the building for their operations.

Procurement and Supply director Herman S. Sablan earlier confirmed that only Bridge Capital LLC responded to RFP09-SOF-051.

In March 2007, Bridge Capital LLC bought interest on the La Fiesta Mall property from the Japanese-owned Coco's Lagoon Development. The CNMI government, which acquired the building in 2004, is now paying Bridge Capital about \$200,000 a year for the lease of the idle property.

The Fitial administration earlier said it wants to make the former La Fiesta mall, located across Palms Resort in San Roque, "productive again."

The RFP said special consideration will be given to proposals that will develop the La Fiesta property "into a promising and sustainable tourist attraction and entertainment complex," and the lease, redevelopment, and revitalization of the La Fiesta property includes upgrading and renovating all existing facilities within the commercial complex.

an official communication from the government.

"We are still waiting for an official response from the government," he said in a phone interview.

Inos said if Bridge Capital LLC will be awarded a government contract, its video lottery games will be "centrally monitored by the government, and the recordkeeping will be supervised by the government."

A video lottery game uses a gaming machine that allows gamblers to bet on the outcome of a video game. A video lottery terminal is similar to a slot machine, except that it is connected to a centralized computer system that determines the outcome of each wager using a random number generator.

Although the outcome of each wager is random, video lottery terminal operators are able to program in advance the total amount and number of payouts that its central computer system will allow at its connected terminals. In this manner, video lottery terminals can be thought of as computerized scratch-off lottery tickets.

Relocation of amusement games

Inos said the review of Bridge Capital LLC's proposal also includes a determination of whether it can be tied in to a plan for all video amusement games to be relocated to a central area.

VIDEO

From Page 1

velopment, or revitalization of La Fiesta Mall.

"We are looking into the feasibility. We received the proposal which may not be readily allowed in the regulations...The main thrust of their proposal is to operate video lottery games. We're checking whether or not that's permissible under the current law. Looks like it's permissible. But if it's not permissible, then obviously we can't proceed with the project," Inos told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

Since the former La Fiesta Mall shut its doors in 2004, the building has become a wasteland, yet it costs the government at least \$200,000 in annual lease payment to Bridge Capital LLC, a lending company.

If and when the government awards a contract to Bridge Capital LLC, it will be the first time that video lottery games will be operating in the CNMI.

Bridge Capital LLC, which owned the now defunct Guam Greyhound Park racetrack, is a different entity from Bridge Investment Group, which plans to operate a casino on Tinian.

Jon Anderson, loan officer for Bridge Capital LLC, yesterday said the company cannot comment on the La Fiesta proposal until they receive

needs at the Tinian airport.

Yesterday, Mendiola said: "The fund intended for ILS will remain...we're not going to transfer it to any other projects at the Tinian airport. What we're looking at is to use the remaining balance from the \$5.5 million approved [in 2007] for other airport projects."

Mendiola said the architectural and engineering design of the ILS project would soon be completed.

"We're still unfunded by \$2 million for ILS. So our goal now is to go ahead and proceed with the other airport projects and suspend the ILS while we're looking for additional money," he said.

Mendiola disclosed that since the completion of the new terminal building on Tinian airport two years ago, the facility has never been used due to lack of necessary amenities such as air-conditioning units, a baggage conveyor system, and an electrical system.

"It was our goal to use that new terminal for departure...so that the existing terminal facility will be for arrival only. But since its completion in 2007, we never used it," he said, adding that this was why "reprogramming" is needed for some airport funds to be used in these areas.

Mendiola disclosed that representatives from OIA will be on island to meet with the delegation next month.

Last week, the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission said it fully supports the "stand" of existing and future casino operators on island on the issue of ILS.

Tom Lieu, general manager of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, had also earlier emphasized that the company "has been and always been" supportive of the ILS project.

"but it is what it is," he added.

Fitial, for his part, said the effort has been successful simply because of the four M's of production: money, manpower, management and machinery.

Also, he added, Wallon Young, who was hired as deputy director for Utilities System Rehabilitation, helped CUC tremendously. For example, he was able to repair crankshafts, usually costing \$1.5 million, for less than \$100,000, Fitial said.

The administration drafted a bill that was introduced in the House of Representatives in February, but it has yet to be voted on. Last week, Esther Fleming, the governor's special assistant for administration, said she was no longer counting on the lawmakers to pass the austerity measure bill.

Fitial and Inos have said they will not allow for deficit spending.

During Fiscal year 2008, the government initially incurred a deficit of approximately \$18 million, but a last-minute \$17.2 million payment from the U.S. Treasury as final settlement on a long-standing cover-over issue and additional revenue collection ultimately helped the government accrue a surplus of \$110,000 for the year.

TINIAN

From Page 1

closed this to *Saipan Tribune* following the consultation yesterday.

The Tinian Legislative Delegation earlier decided to scrap the long-delayed project due to the China market's exclusion from the visa waiver program and the lack of additional money for the project. The move was opposed by many parties, which described the decision as "inconsiderate."

Mendiola disclosed that since the start, the project has always been short of funds, based on estimates from the CPA, which issued the scope and requirements of the work. The ILS was projected to cost only \$4 million in 2006.

At that time, the Tinian delegation asked the Office of Insular Affairs for \$7 million for its airport projects, including \$4 million for the ILS. In 2007, OIA approved the reprogramming of \$5.5 million from the island's wastewater fund, with only \$3.5 million for the ILS project.

"OIA approved only \$5.5 million from that request, with \$3.5 million to go to ILS. So since the beginning, we were short of funds for the ILS," he said.

The shortfall grew to \$2 million when current estimates boosted the project cost to \$5.5 million.

"For this reason, we decided to just merely suspend the project until we find additional money for its completion," Mendiola said.

The lawmaker earlier disclosed that they plan to ask the OIA's approval to transfer the ILS money to some priority

CUC

From Page 2

the final piece of the puzzle.

Adding that to the \$10 million secured in 2007, the executive director said, "in 2008 we came full circle." It was a \$15 million project that took three years to come to fruition, he said. If \$15 million had been available from the start, it might have happened faster,

GOVT

From Page 1

quarter," Inos said.

A reduction in the employers' contribution rate helped the government cut the deficit amount this quarter, Inos said.

The Finance secretary said he anticipates overspending by \$2 million to \$3 million in the next two quarters. At that rate, the government could incur a deficit as high as \$13.5 million for Fiscal Year 2009.

The administration has repeatedly called on the Legislature to enact more cost-reduction measures like austerity Fridays and unpaid holidays, in an effort to stay within the spending limit.

Citizenship and Immigration Services officials to meet with Tinian chamber

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

How does the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services intend to process approximately 2,000 applications from Tinian when there is no office on the island? This is one of the critical issues that the Tinian Chamber of Commerce will raise with two USCIS officials on Friday.

Walter Haith, field office director of Guam/CNMI USCIS, and Fred Ongcapin, adjudications officer of the USCIS Policy and Regulation Management, will be the guest speakers at the Chamber's monthly membership meeting.

The Chamber meeting is set for April 3 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's Tinian Banquet Room, from 11am to 12pm.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, said the members are eager to hear from the USCIS officials on several issues, including the processing of some 2,000 applications from Tinian when there is no office on island.

The other critical policy issues that the group wants the USCIS officials to discuss are status changes and immigration options for CNMI immediate relatives, policy considerations for foreign investors, a brief description of what the expected job categories for the CNMI-only transitional worker program will be, and the impact, if any, of the prevailing versus actual wage rates on the impor-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maj. Gen. Eugene G. Payne Jr., right, assistant deputy commandant for the U.S. Marine Corps' Installations and Facilities, receives from Tinian Chamber of Commerce president Phillip Mendiola-Long, left, an autographed 1945 photo of Tinian's North Field where B29s were part of what was once the world's largest and busiest air base, during the business group's March 17 general membership meeting. Mendiola-Long said the intent of giving the gift to the general was to show him Tinian's capabilities 60 years ago and what it could be again in the future.

tation of labor.

Mendiola-Long said members of the Tinian Chamber are thankful that USCIS has accepted their invitation to speak to the Tinian business community and private citizens.

"We intend to use this platform as an opportunity to share our experiences with USCIS so that they can see first hand the challenges that people on the outer islands face and the extreme financial hardships we endure. At the very least, the people of Tinian have been given the rightful opportunity to be heard and we thank USCIS for coming out and hearing us," Mendiola-Long said in a statement yesterday.

The meeting is open to the public.

The event is paid for by members of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, while non-Chamber members will be charged a nominal fee of \$5 to cover the rental of the banquet room and refreshments offered during the presentation.

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce now has 37 members, from only 19 when it was revived in February. The group said it will be the voice of businesses on Tinian on issues such as the impact of a federal immigration system on the economy, the consequences of military activities, and capital improvement projects on the island.

NMI honors late author with launch of Chamorro book

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jose DLG. Sanchez remembers as a child how his dad, the late Juan Aguon Sanchez, would wake up at 3:30 in the morning to start writing stories, poems, songs and prayers and wake his children up one by one by 6am before going to work from the 1960s until he passed away in 1988.

Sanchez, now 57, said he's proud of his father's collection of work—a Chamorro language book on local history and culture titled, *Estoria-Hu* or *My Story*.

Yesterday, the community joined the Sanchez family and the NMI Humanities Council in honoring the late author with the launching of the book at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Estoria-Hu, published 21 years after the author's death, is the third title published by the NMI Humanities Council under its Micronesian Authors Initiative established in 2004.

The book is also the first in that series written in the Chamorro language.

"There were people ahead of my dad who were knowledgeable, who wrote songs and sto-

ries, too, but why my dad? Maybe my dad learned from them or took the same path they walked on and used it as a model for him...I hope others will not get mad because my dad's book was the first one [in Chamorro language] to be printed when there were others ahead of him. I hope that one day, all the writers' work will also be compiled and honored the same way they honored my dad," Sanchez said in an interview.

The ceremony, conducted in Chamorro from start to finish, was attended by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, NMI Humanities Council officers and members, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan, other government officials, along with community members and students.

Besides writing on a wide variety of topics involving indigenous language, cultures and history in both prose and verse, the late Juan Aguon Sanchez is particularly remembered for his eulogy to President John F. Kennedy, written shortly after the President's assassination in 1963.

A recording of the eulogy was played during yesterday's ceremony. Five students also

read selected writings from the author's book.

One of the late author's children, Jose DLG. Sanchez, said he also remembers how his dad would drink his coffee first before starting to write.

"He will just leave his writing on the table and my mom would keep all his writing together. So this book is all about his work—stories, poems, songs, prayers—and I hope the community will understand...and respect his work," said Sanchez.

Besides Jose DLG. Sanchez, other children of the late author who were present at the ceremony were Maria S. Sablan, Fernando DLG. Sanchez, Bitilia DLG. Sanchez, Zita DLG. Sanchez, and Jesus DLG. Sanchez.

The NMI Humanities Council established the Micronesian Authors Initiative in 2004 to promote the publication of works by indigenous Micronesian writers. The first two titles published under the Initiative include *Microchild* by the late Valentine Sengebau, and *The Rope of Tradition* by Lino M. Olopai.

Estoria-Hu costs \$15 each, and is available at the Northern Marianas College and University of Guam bookstores.

2 students, 1 adult hurt as car slams into Dollar Days

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Three persons, including two minor students, were injured when a car slammed into the closed glass door of Dollar Days Wholesale in Garapan yesterday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said preliminary information indicated that the victims were treated at the scene and later released.

Ogumoro said it was reported that a silver Toyota Corolla crashed through the front entrance of Dollar Days at 6:41am.

Ogumoro said at the time of the crash, two students at a nearby school bus were hit by flying debris and sustained minor injuries. She said an employee

of Dollar Days also had minor injuries.

The DPS spokesperson said she should have more information about the crash today, Tuesday, as the police officer who investigated the case ended his shift at 7am yesterday.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned that it was actually a Toyota Camry and not a Corolla that rammed into the closed door of Dollar Days.

The car, driven by a woman, was about to park in front of Dollar Days to drop off her two children to wait for the school bus when the incident happened.

Instead of stepping on the brake, the woman reportedly stepped on the gas pedal. The car slammed into the padlocked door of Dollar Days.

The glass door was shattered as the car went inside the establishment and hit one of the racks.

The woman's two children, who were wearing seatbelts, were not injured. Two teenaged students who were in front of the store were injured after they were hit by flying glass and other debris.

The driver's husband later came and reversed the car from the store. Broken glass were scattered all over the floor of the establishment.

The car had minor damage on the left front hood.

Saipan Tribune was told that the driver works in a hotel that is also owned by the Dollar Days owner.

Police placed the incident under investigation.

Annuncio - Arongorong Announcement

YOUR COMMENTS ARE MOST WELCOME:

VR FY - 2010 State Plan Goals

Goal 1. Deliver quality and timely services to applicants and consumers.

Goal 2. Serve as an advocate for individuals with disabilities.

Goal 3. Continue to work closely with the Workforce Investment Board to maintain and improve the best features of our workforce development system and to initiate efforts to integrate services for consumers.

Goal 4. Facilitate and ensure the seamless transition of students with disabilities to employment or continued education.

SPIL Amendment to Current Goals:

Goal I) Increase the community's level of awareness of the independent living movement, individuals and systems advocacy;

Goal II) Provide certain independent living core services: the four core services and transportation services to individuals with significant disabilities.

For more information on the VR & SPIL State Plans, please contact:

Margarita R. Olopai-Taitano
OVR Director

Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

Jess Elameto
SRC Chairperson



The office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) in partnership with the State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) and the statewide Independent Living Council (SILC), will be conducting statewide public forums on FY 2008-2010 State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and to amend the current State Plan form Independent Living (SPIL). YOU are ALL invited and encouraged to please participate in the scheduled public forums. The forums will provide opportunities for public comments on how well services are met and what need to be strengthened in our State Plans. Let us know how best the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation shall and should serve people with disabilities residing in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. What barriers exist that currently prevent our people with disabilities from getting or keeping a job. More importantly, recommend solutions to those barriers. Overall, how can OVR and our local communities work together or prepare, secure and maintain employment and promote independence for and among eligible people with disabilities?

Community Forum on VR & IL State Plan FY 2008-2010

TINIAN

March 31, 2009
TINIAN Aging Center

State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation at 5:30 p.m.

State Plan for Independent Living at 6:35 to 7:35 p.m.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATION: If you require special accommodation (e.g., large print, sign language interpreter) to participate in the public forums, please contact the OVR Council Liaison Magin Iginoef at least 2 days before the scheduled forums. Copies of the plans can be obtained and accessed at website & office.

Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
322-6537/8 (Voice) 322-6449 (TTY) 322-6536 Fax
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 website: www.ovr.gov.mp

Publication of this notice is paid for with federal funds made possible by RSA Grant#H126A050078 of the United States Department of Education (OSERS)

Star Marianas Air is newest CNMI air carrier

TINIAN—Star Marianas Air Inc., a corporation formed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, received certification from the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration to conduct air carrier operations starting April 1.

This significant achievement will be beneficial in promoting the growth of tourism between the islands.

"Having an additional air carrier to provide transportation between the islands will help the existing airlines provide sufficient capacity to allow economic growth of the islands," said Donna Cabrera, the general manager of Star

Marianas Air. "We are very pleased that we will soon be able to provide service to customers during times that are not currently being offered by the existing carriers."

Star Marianas Air will have a blessing ceremony on March 31 and intends to announce the commencement of its services sometime in the next few weeks.

"Since certification was accomplished with very little advance notice due to scheduling coordination with the FAA and the consulting company

that assisted the certification effort, we still have a lot of work to finish before opening our services to the public," said Cabrera.

"Mr. William Padgett from the Honolulu office of the FAA and Mr. Robert Christian from the consulting company CCI Corporation spent the full week including the weekend conducting training and check rides in order to complete the certification requirements," added Cabrera. "We sincerely appreciate their efforts!"

The company has four pilots. George

Irie was approved by the FAA as the chief pilot and Manny Gabor was approved as the director of maintenance. The company plans to initially conduct charter operations between Saipan and Tinian in using Piper Cherokee aircraft.

Star Marianas Air Inc. was incorporated August 2006 under the name Star Aviation, Inc. In 2008 the name was changed to Star Marianas Air Inc. Its Air Carrier License number is 1SMA230M. For more information about Star Marianas Air, Inc, visit its website at www.starmarianasair.com. (PR)

ON THE NET

www.starmarianasair.com

Kiyoshi, Sablan confirmed to boards

The Senate unanimously confirmed two individuals to serve as members of local boards.

At their session last week, the Senate members confirmed Jose P. Kiyoshi to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Elections Commission board and Edward C. Sablan to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Development Authority board.

Kiyoshi will represent Tinian as a member of the Elections Commission board. He will serve a four-year term. Kiyoshi has been a law enforcement officer at The Department of Commerce's Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control Division since 1994.

Sablan has been a compliance manager in the Department of Finance's Revenue and Tax Division in the past. He served on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s board of directors from July 1999 to May 2002, during which he served as board chairman from July 2001 to May 2002. (Kristi Eaton)



AUTISM WORKSHOP

Kent R. Logan, Ph.D., standing first row off-center, with glasses, and Susan Lizama, left of Logan, director of Special Education, pose with participants after conducting a workshop on "Inclusive Instruction for Students with More Significant Disabilities," held at the Saipan World Resort on March 27, 2009. The workshop was attended by all Head Start and Special Education teachers. Logan is an autism specialist from the DeKalb County School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FOR A REMOVAL ACTION AT SAIPAN SEWER WASTE SITE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") announces that the Administrative Record for the Saipan Sewer Waste (Athe Site@) located at the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI") Commonwealth Utilities Commission ("CUC") Power Plant 1 facility in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI, is available for public review and comment.

CUC pumped a semi-liquid material out of the sewer line in Kobleville, Saipan, and placed it into 55 gallon drums at the "Site" for temporary storage. Sampling results revealed a mixed waste that included heavy metals and mixed petroleum wastes with high levels of silver. The area is subject to extreme heat and humidity as well as typhoons, which could cause the drums to deteriorate. EPA conducted a removal action to abate the hazards by assessing, stabilizing, solidifying, treating and repacking the containers and transported the containers to the United States for treatment or disposal.

The Administrative Record is a file that includes all documents upon which the EPA has based its decision to conduct a removal action at the Site. EPA encourages community members to review the Administrative Record and submit comments during the 30-day comment period, which begins with the publication of this notice and ends 30 days later. Copies of the Administrative Record will be available for public review at the following location:

Joeten-Kiyu Public Library
P.O. Box 501092, Saipan, CNMI 96950
Hours: Monday - Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday/Holidays: Closed

Superfund Records Center
95 Hawthorne Street, Suite 403S, San Francisco, CA 94105
Hours: Monday through Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Call for an appointment at (415) 536-2000

Written comments on the Administrative Record should be sent to:
J. Wong (SFD-9)
U.S. EPA, Region IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Grievance over contract filed with NMC president's office

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A grievance filed some 10 days ago with the Office of the President of the Northern Marianas College is now awaiting action by Dr. Carmen Fernandez, who is set to meet with the employee today to either resolve or refer the complaint to an appeals committee.

Saipan Tribune learned that the grievance, pertaining to the issuance of a new contract, was directly presented to Fernandez's office based on the established policy of the college.

Although the college president has no set time limit to take action on a grievance, the process usually takes a week for action.

Honorary faculty senate president Frank Sobolewski yesterday declined to comment on the specifics of the grievance but confirmed the meeting between the president and the complainant.

He confirmed that the grievance was filed last March 20. He hopes the matter will be resolved as soon as possible.

The filing of the grievance at the president's office came about after the issue was not resolved at the lower level. College policy dictates that an employee must first try to resolve an issue with a supervisor and

other concerned individuals. If the employee is not satisfied with the outcome, he or she can directly file it with the college president.

If an employee is not satisfied with the president's decision or response, then the employee can petition to file a complaint with the employee appeals committee.

Sobolewski opined that the current administrative procedure for grievances "very much leaves out the college deans."

He admitted, though, that it's only the college president who can address problems and concerns about "employee's contract."

'Push for indefinite contract'

Since 2003, the college's instructional faculty has been pushing for the adoption of an indefinite contract, which sets no expiration—a proposal that has been "killed" many times in the past.

Sobolewski said the proposal will serve as the employees' job security, which he deems non-existent at the college.

Saipan Tribune learned that NMC issues two-year teaching contract to employees, subject for evaluation and renewal prior to expiration. The college policy states that the president, with or

without cause, may not renew the contracts.

"We find this procedure unfair...and inconsistent with what we are writing for our accreditation, which needs evidence of such action or decision," he said. "From the point of view of the faculty, it conflicts with what we are writing to the accrediting commission, which requires decisions based on evidence. If a person is not renewed for no cause, that's not based on evidence."

Under the proposed indefinite contract, Sobolewski said, "the president still has the full authority to terminate somebody...for a cause. It must be with reason and due process."

"It does not in any way change the president's power to remove somebody with cause," he added.

There are 33 instructional employees at the college, of which a significant number is up for renewal every year.

Sobolewski, who has been with the college since 1995, believes that the idea would also provide greater security to the quality of education desired for NMC.

The college, based on job vacancy announcements, needs 12 instructional employees for its six academic departments.

Another \$9.6M to NMI for energy conservation

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Rep. Gregorio “Kilili” C. Sablan said the White House has alerted him that another \$9.6 million is headed to the Northern Marianas to help make the Commonwealth more energy efficient. The grant is part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress in February. The CNMI share, \$9.6 million, is set by formula in law.

“The Northern Marianas is being given a once-in-a-lifetime

opportunity to reduce the amount of energy we use and by doing so reduce the amount of money we send out of our economy to pay for oil,” said Sablan. “Every dollar that stays in our economy can be spent here, helping local businesses and preserving jobs.

“Now it is up to us to use the \$9.6 million the White House announced this week, together with the \$19.4 million awarded two weeks ago, to make the changes that will help make our economy

healthy again,” he added.

The \$9,593,500 the CNMI is receiving comes from the Energy Efficiency and Conserva-

ON THE NET

<http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>

tion Block Grant Program. The money is administered by the CNMI Energy Office.

Funds can be used for a variety of purposes to save energy. Non-

profit organizations and government agencies can receive grants to retrofit buildings to increase energy efficiency. Homeowners can

receive loans to reduce energy use and pay the loans back through their regular utility bills. The money can be used to

replace existing streetlights with energy-saving, solar-powered lighting.

“The only real limit on the use of this money is our imagination and

our ability to administer the funds wisely and well,” Sablan said. “I would hope that there would be an outpouring of good ideas from everyone in the community and that the best of those ideas will get some of this \$9.6 million.

“This money gives us a chance to turn ideas into action.”

Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands also each received grants for \$9.6 million from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Pro-

gram under the formula based distribution system.

The \$19.4 million previously announced, also distributed by formula, includes \$700,000 for home weatherization and \$18.4 million for energy efficiency and conservation. The Governor is required to attest that the CNMI is adopting green building codes and provide a prioritized list of projects to the Department of Energy for the funds to begin flowing. (PR)

2 defendants in UMDA case to be sentenced in New York

Prosecutors ask for 24-year sentence for Pfaff and Larson

Robert Pfaff and John Larson, two primary defendants in an ongoing civil case brought by United Micronesia Development Association on Saipan, should be sentenced to as much as 24 years in federal prison for tax fraud, according to a brief filed by federal prosecutors in U.S. District Court in New York late last week. Pfaff and Larson will be sentenced on April 1 by U.S. District Judge Lewis Kaplan.

Pfaff and Larson were convicted by a federal jury of multiple counts of tax evasion in December 2008 in *U.S. v. Stein*—a case billed as the largest criminal inquiry into tax fraud in the history of the United States. The two former executives of the accounting firm of KPMG were convicted of selling illegal tax shelters (called “BLIPS”) that helped wealthy clients evade well over \$100 million in taxes.

In their brief, prosecutors John Hillebrecht and Margaret Garnett of the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Manhattan say that

based on sentencing guidelines Pfaff and Larson should receive from 19 to 24 years in prison. According to the brief, “We recognize of course that these guidelines ranges are sobering. But we submit that the virtually unprecedented enormity of the BLIPS fraud, coupled with the pivotal roles in that fraud played by each of these defendants and the personal profit they derived from the fraud, makes a sentence with the guidelines range appropriate and reasonable.”

In April of 2007 UMDA filed a civil suit against Pfaff, Larson, and a number of their associates in Superior Court of the of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”) to recover millions of dollars for harm done to the company over a ten year period ending in 2006 when Pfaff was a director and shareholder in the company.

Pfaff is also under separate criminal indictment in the same New York federal court in a related case that is scheduled for

trial in New York later this year.

According to attorney Robert O’Connor, who represents UMDA in the Saipan case, “This second federal indictment relates to Pfaff’s alleged criminal activities around the globe, including the misuse of UMDA accounts and assets. It supports many of the key allegations made by UMDA against Pfaff and his co-defendants in the civil suit. We intend to show at our trial in Saipan that these actions by Pfaff and others cost UMDA and its shareholders many millions of dollars.”

UMDA was founded in 1966 in Saipan. Over the years, UMDA has been involved in a wide range of businesses, including airlines, cable systems, shipping, and resort properties. UMDA’s shareholders include the government or governmental entities of the CNMI, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, and thousands of individual Micronesians and their families. (UMDA)

Hawaii groups donate items to Saipan

Nineteen books shelves, 50 boxes of books, 100 boxes of linens, and 60 bags of toys will soon be heading to Saipan. All the donated items are bound for Saipan’s Public School System and hospital.

“Diverting these useful items from our landfill, to an area with desperate needs makes so much sense,” says REPAC President Glenn Wakai, “Despite Hawaii’s current economic struggles, we live in a state of great prosperity compared to our Pacific neighbors. This donation will greatly enhance the quality of education and healthcare in the Northern Mariana Islands.”

Reach out Pacific (REPAC) is a non-profit which takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to Pacific Islands. The organization has sent more than \$300,000 worth of goods to islands from American Samoa to the Philippines.

This is a real community effort. The US Bankruptcy Court is donating the shelves as they move to storing more of their documents electronically. Shriner’s Hospital is undergo-

ing renovations and had to dispose of a large volume of toys and children’s clothing.

Moanalua High School was purging its stock of books and donated hundreds of books bound for a public library in Saipan.

2,000 linens not used by Wai-kiki hotels will cover hospital beds in Saipan.

The assortment of items will be loaded into a container at Island Movers and then transported to Saipan by Matson Navigation Company.

“We are pleased to help REPAC deliver these items into the hands of Saipan’s school children,” says Matson VP, Vic Angoco, “Matson remains committed to supporting the communities we serve in the Pacific.”

REPAC was established in 2005 and is a part of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, of which the Hawaii legislature holds membership. REPAC has sent surplus medical and educational supplies to Samoa, Chuuk, Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Palau, Guam, Saipan and the Philippines. (Glenn Wakai)

Weekly Shinchou explores NMI jungles, waters



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Writer Yumi Yamaguchi and photographer Jun Nishimura of Japanese magazine *Weekly Shinchou* explore Hachiman Jinja, a Shinto shrine built on Saipan during the Japanese administration of the islands in the first half of the 1900s. The magazine crew was on Saipan and Tinian on March 21-16, 2009.

Exploring the jungles, caves, and turquoise blue waters of the Northern Mariana Islands was top on the agenda for *Weekly Shinchou*, a weekly magazine reaching nearly 500,000 businessmen and women in Japan.

Writer Yumi Yamaguchi and photographer Jun Nishimura visited Saipan and Tinian Mar. 21 - 26, 2009, to prepare a three-to five-page article to run in an April or May issue of the magazine. Their itinerary included a tour to beach hotspot Managaha Island, isolated Forbidden Island, snorkeling with turtles and treks into the jungle.

“*Weekly Shinchou* had a particular interest in what the jungles of Saipan and Tinian have to offer the adventurous visitor, and we were happy to share that with them,” said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Teno-río. “It is our hope that the natural beauty and historic treasures found in our islands will entice their readers to visit.”

The familiarization tour was supported by MVA, Pacific Micronesia Tours/Tasi Tours and Fiesta Resort & Spa. The estimated value of the coverage is \$54,000-\$90,000. (MVA)

Economic Restoration Summit

You are cordially invited to join us as we explore solutions to strengthen our economy



April 2, 2009
8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Registration 8:00 to 8:30 am
Limited Registration

April 3, 2009
8:00 am – 12 noon
FIESTA Resort & Spa – Saipan

Keynote Speaker:
Honorable Lt. Governor Michael Cruz, MD
Guam

RSVP: 664-3077

cnmibizz@gmail.com

CNMI
Hosted by: Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Development Authority

NMC progress in aqua-farming wows visiting aquaculture exec

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, was recently praised for its efforts in promoting aqua-farming in the CNMI.

Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee, director of the Center for Tropical and Subtropical Aquaculture, visited CREES on March 26 for an inspection of the progress of aquaculture in the CNMI and was impressed by CREES's activities to date and by its plans for future promotion.

CTSA is one of five regional aquaculture centers in the United States established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The regional aquaculture centers integrate individual and institutional expertise and resources in support of commercial aquaculture development. CTSA was established in 1986 and is jointly administered by the Oceanic Institute and the University of Hawaii.

Lee was treated to a tour, led by NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona and aquaculture spe-



NMC-CREES Aquaculture Research Assistant Bill Joseph displays an abalone container to Dr. Cheng-Sheng Lee.

cialist Michael Ogo, through the NMC aquaculture facility to show CREES' several grow-out trials with tilapia, shrimp, and abalone. Afterward, the group

met to discuss future plans.

Lee stressed the viability of aquaculture in the CNMI, especially since the geographical isolation of the islands warrants disease-free cultured fish. While other fish culturing countries are fighting an expensive battle against bacteria and viruses, the CNMI could brand their products disease-free with a minimal investment in biosecurity.

"There is a huge economic potential into which the CNMI can tap," said Lee. "The CNMI is very close to Southeast Asia, where the biggest markets for sea food are located."

After the tour around the research facility, the group visited several of CREES' clients in Fina Sisu, Navy Hill, San Roque and

Chinatown. At these locations, Lee was shown several designs of fish tanks, ranging from low-cost backyard operations to more sophisticated ventures. He was amazed that the Palms Resort in San Roque, where CREES had released some 80,000 fries, also uses the shrimps as a tourist attraction in its artificial lagoon.

CREES staff also showed Lee the different designs of the filter systems used in their tanks.

"Our filters are built locally at the YMBM shop for about the quarter of the price for an imported system," said Ogo. "This is a perfect example of how the whole CNMI economy can take advantage from the multiplier effect a strong aquaculture industry is able to deliver." (NMC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 31, 1999

Fund profits slip

Investments of the NMI Retirement Fund slid by \$11.34 million last month from the total value posted in January, representing a 3.4 percent drop that has been attributed to the "volatile" conditions of the international stock market. Fred Camacho, NMIRF acting administrator, said they expect the market to perform irregularly within the year, but assured they are still ahead from the fund's earnings the previous year. "We have been fortunate to be making money. There'll be some months wherein we'd make several millions of dollars but then the market is quite volatile these days. So it fluctuates," he told in an interview. Total investment portfolio of the agency posted growth in January to reach nearly \$338 million, but slipped to \$326.5 million - equivalent to a decrease in market value of \$11.3 million.

Law toughens tobacco ban on minors

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has signed a law to strictly enforce a ban on tobacco use among minors, including an increase in penalties for people who buy or sell cigarettes to children. Proponents of the legislation explain the measure would help curb the growing incidence of use of tobacco products by youths in the Commonwealth which they say is on the rise despite an existing law that prohibits it. Under Public Law 11-75, establishments or individuals selling or giving tobacco to minors will be penalized. It likewise imposes penalties on youths under the age of 18 found to be possessing, using or smoking tobacco.

March 31, 2000

Article 12 restrictions hamper NMHC's home loan program

The exclusive right to own a land granted by the CNMI Constitution to people of Chamorro and Carolinian descent remains a major hindrance in the growth of real estate financing in the Northern Marianas, according to Housing Corporation Executive Director Marylou S. Ada. Ms. Ada said Article 12 in the Commonwealth Constitution which restricts land ownership in the islands to local residents hamper the housing corporation's efforts to move home mortgage financing to a much better scale. "Article 12 is the great hindrance to any of our home loan program primarily because only people of CNMI descent can own land," she said in an interview.

Reinforce ban on meat from Japan, S. Korea

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources has ordered the Quarantine Office to strictly enforce a ban on the importation of meat from South Korea and Japan due to the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in these two countries. While imported meat on the island comes mainly from the United States, the department has expressed concern that tourists coming from these countries may bring in meat to the island, according to Marianne Teregeyo, special assistant at DLNR. The CNMI has not had any outbreak of FMD, and the local Division of Agriculture has always banned the importation of meat from countries with the history of the disease.

March 31, 2003

DPH on alert vs entry of SARS virus

Passengers from Asia, particularly Hong Kong, China, and Singapore, would undergo stricter screening at all ports of entry in the CNMI following the spread of a fatal and mysterious illness called severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) at these places. According to the Department of Public Health, local authorities have met to implement a course of action to reduce the risk of possible entry of the disease into the CNMI. The disease is contracted through close contact with people infected with the virus. DPH epidemiologist Ed Diaz said the government will soon issue an advisory for passengers. "This is a global concern. So we're doing our best to protect the public. We're discussing this matter with concerned agencies," said Diaz.

Federal Reserve Bank allows BoS to reopen account

The Bank of Saipan will not be reopening on the first week of April as earlier projected, but its receiver indicated that several prerequisites to the reopening are falling into place. Among receiver Antonio Muna's precondition for the reopening is the reestablishment of relationship with the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco (FRB) and local banks to allow off-island and local clearing of BoS checks. In a letter dated Thursday last week, the FRB notified BoS of its approval of the Saipan institution's application to reopen its direct account.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DLNR/DFW-065

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: APRIL 23, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

**"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A TWIN ENGINE
OUTBOARD TO INCLUDE REMOVAL OF OLD ENGINE
FOR THE DLNR - DIV. OF FISH & WILDLIFE-
ENFORCEMENT SECTION"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ IGNACIO T. DELA CRUZ D.V.M.
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, the Public Utilities Commission hereby gives notice that it will hold a Special meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Conference Room on Saipan.

Agenda

1. Call to order – quorum
 2. Approval of minutes of December 19, 2008 meeting
 3. Rules:
 - Confidentiality rules
 - Amendment to rules of procedure
 4. Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division
 - Hearing examiner report - LEAC rate and further regulatory proceedings
 - LEAC order
 5. Docket 09-2: CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions
 - Hearing examiner report
 - Proposed rate order
 6. Administrative business:
 - Section 8409 designation resolution
 - Direct payment resolution
- Other business

/s/ VIOLA ALEPUYO
COMMISSIONER, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2009 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107, San Jose, Saipan, MP.

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
 - Adoption of Minutes
- II NEW BUSINESS
 - Security Based Lending Matters
- III EXECUTIVE SESSION
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential
- IV MISCELLANEOUS
- V ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written and/or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Vianney B. Hocog
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Island Snapshots



COMREL

Sailors from the USS *Frank Cable* led by Lt. Sherri Garrett join Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela after the community relations services last Saturday, March 28, 2009, where they helped the Office of the Mayor of Saipan clean up the Sugar King Park, Last Command Post in Marpi, the WWII Ammunition Bunker and the Gualo Rai Youth Center. Shown at center front row, Lt. Garrett holds Tudela's certificate of appreciation and Tudela shows a plaque of the ship presented by Garrett.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NATIONAL LIFE SAVING AWARD

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3457 led by commander Mariano Fajardo, third from right, presents VFW National Life Saving Awards on Friday to Ranko Oryug, third from left, and Capt. Judd Palacios, second from right, for risking their lives to save the lives of others during separate incidents. Oryug, a diving instructor, saved a Russian tourist from drowning at Obyan Beach, while Palacios, along with Capt. Hozumi Miyayauchi and Joseph Aldan, who were not present during the awarding, saved three people whose boat capsized off the Sugar Dock Beach. In the photo are, from left, VFW Post 3457 officer of the day and master of arms Robert Woodruff, junior vice commander Leslie Jackson, Oryug, Fajardo, Palacios, and VFW Post 3457 life member Michael Murphy.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



PDI ETC DONATIONS

This year Pacific Development Inc. presented \$5,000 worth of Educational Tax Credit to the following schools: Northern Marianas College; Rota High School; Marianas High School; Sister Remedio; Mt. Carmel School; Seventh Day Elementary School; Oleai Elementary School; William S. Reyes Elementary School; Kagman High School; and Garapan Elementary School. Every year PDI rotates the ETC to different public schools and private schools, this year the company choose the following schools. It is PDI's way to say thank you for their continued support of the tourism industry.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



BoG AT WALKATON

Bank of Guam officers and staff help count the proceeds collected during last Saturday's American Red Cross walkathon. Shown seated, Larry Phillip, AVP branch manager, and Gus Palacios. Back row, from left, Dave Diaz, Josie Benavente, Trinny Santos, Manny Kisa, Agueda B. Camacho, and Marcie M. Tomokane, VP/CNMI regional manager. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DELTA/NORTHWEST DONATION

Delta/Northwest Airlines recently donated \$1,200 worth of supplies from National Office Supply to Mount Carmel School. The proceeds were from the NWA Golf Tournament for Children's Education held in December 2008. All proceeds raised from the annual tournament are donated to various children's educational charities or activities in the CNMI. Picture shows Delta/Northwest Airlines sales representatives Chris A. Concepcion and Esther F. Sound with Mt. Carmel School president Margaret Dela Cruz. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Delta/Northwest Airlines has donated \$1,200 worth of supplies from National Office Supply to Dandan Elementary School. Picture shows DES principal Jonas Barcinas with Delta/Northwest Airlines sales representatives Esther F. Sound and Chris A. Concepcion, with operations supervisor Linda L. Hudson. The proceeds were from the NWA Golf Tournament for Children's Education held in December 2008. All proceeds raised from the annual tournament are donated to various children's educational charities or activities in the CNMI. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

The first green step

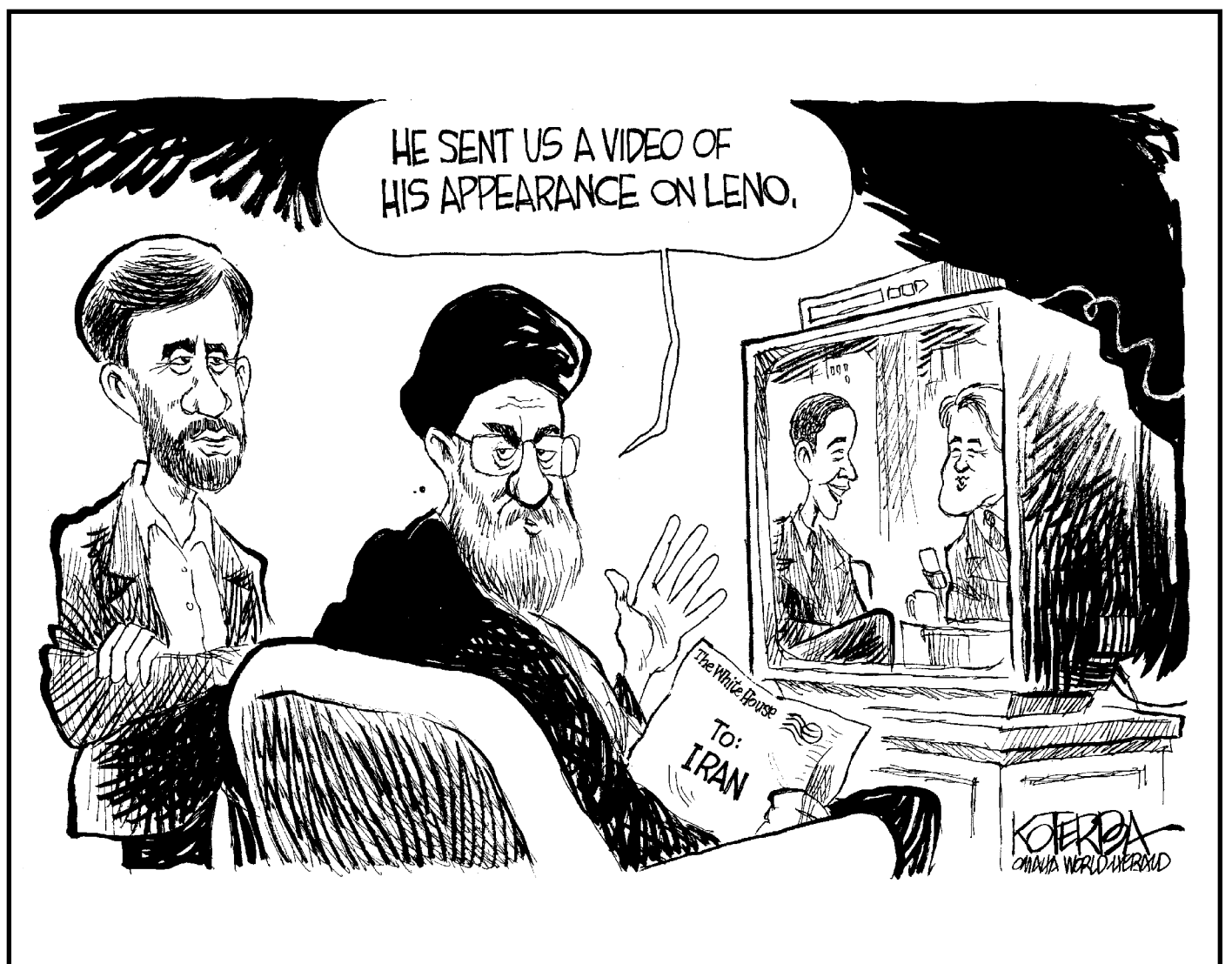
The lack of concrete data on which facilities were emitting greenhouse gases and how much they were spewing into the atmosphere led to a major flaw in the European Union's cap-and-trade system: the over-allocation of pollution permits to industry. This mistake led to the collapse of the carbon market. Thanks to action taken by the Environmental Protection Agency this month, the United States will not make the same mistake.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson issued a proposal to establish a greenhouse gas registry. This is the first step in a process that will lead to the development, discussion and implementation of a program that will tabulate the amount of carbon dioxide, methane and other gases from about 13,000 large industrial facilities that emit more than 25,000 metric tons or more a year each. The EPA estimates this would cover 85 to 90 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the United States. The plan, required by Congress but ignored by President George W. Bush, must be in place by June 26.

Collecting this data would also be the first step in devising a cap-and-trade system that President Obama wants to use to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by about 83 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. He wants to auction 100 percent of the pollution permits to generate \$650 billion over the next 10 years. But there's one small wrinkle in this. The first report from the EPA would be submitted in 2011 for emissions in 2010. Obama's budget plan submitted to Congress anticipates the cap-and-trade system being in place by 2012. In short, there's a question as to whether there will be enough data on which to base the carbon caps.

The administration should consider ramping up voluntary greenhouse gas inventory plans already underway such as the Climate Leaders program at the EPA and the Energy Department's Voluntary Reporting of Greenhouse Gases Program. This would bolster the effort to get as much solid information as possible. And it would help to ensure that the United States avoided making Europe's mistakes.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Not so sweet charity

President Obama wants to take money away from charities. Which is awesome. Only he doesn't go far enough.

His proposal, which Republicans and Democrats both hate, would force rich people to deduct only 28 percent of their charitable donations, instead of 35 percent. This change would have two obvious disadvantages: It's boring and requires math. A simpler solution would be to eliminate everyone's tax break for donations.

Now, I like charities. I've even, after drinking heavily, given to some, such as CARE, Kiva, Partners in Health and a bunch of ones where a friend was helping some group by either running, biking, bowling or growing a mustache. Although I never understood why that was better than asking me for a donation and shutting up about the fun activity. I think I may have once given \$100 to a taunting-chimpanzees-a-thon for lupus.

The idea behind the tax break is that you give \$1 to a good cause and the government kicks back 28 cents on your tax bill. This is also the government's scheme for getting you to buy toxic assets, only in that case you pay \$1 and the government gives you \$14.

The problem with even a 28-cent contribution from the government is that we all then have 28 cents less in tax revenue. Which essentially means I am being forced to give my money to the charity of your choice. And if I've learned anything from rich people's wills, the charity of your choice is either a cat, a stripper or, I'm guessing at least once, a stripper cat.

The charity of your choice, as important as it may be, is not what taxes are for. Taxes are for whatever we all agree is absolutely necessary. Like paying Halliburton to make people in the Middle East hate us more.

By allowing charity deductions, I have to pay more in taxes so you can support causes I didn't get to approve of through my vote. In 2006, that was \$40 billion more we had to pay, according to Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation.

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University adds up our charitable giving every year. The biggest chunk, about 33 percent, goes to religious organizations, which blurs the line between church and state by covering it with lots of money. And while churches do help the needy, they also spend money on preaching, evangelizing and building the kind of giant, high-ceilinged, marble-heavy houses

Taxes aren't a punishment you can get out of by donating money. Taxes are our necessary contribution to the country. The money we'd save with Obama's tiny change would help pay for health care. If we got rid of the charity deduction entirely, we could even use the money to save another large, poorly run industry. Like perhaps newspapers.

By **JOEL STEIN**

Special to the Los Angeles Times

Stein is a columnist for the Times. E-mail Stein at jstein@latimescolumnists.com.



that got us into this fiscal crisis. Giving to a church might sound great at first, but now picture that church as someone else's church.

Less than 10 percent of charity money goes toward basic human needs. That's because a lot of people contribute to things that also benefit them. Schools get the second-biggest part of charity dollars, which means donations to Harvard, Stanford and Exeter, which is kind of like donating money to money.

We're also subsidizing opera companies, museums and political causes. Every weekend, people in Malibu and the Hamptons are holding balls, dinners and silent auctions that I'm catering. And according to the wording of the Internal Revenue Code, Section 501(c)(3), acceptable tax-deductible charities include any "national or international amateur sports competition." I do not mean to cause a panic, but I believe this may include soccer. Meanwhile, people who actually volunteer their time get no tax benefit. And despite what movies have taught them, they never hook up with hot chicks there either.

Taxes aren't a punishment you can get out of by donating money. Taxes are our necessary contribution to the country. The money we'd save with Obama's tiny change would help pay for health care. If we got rid of the charity deduction entirely, we could even use the money to save another large, poorly run industry. Like perhaps newspapers.

Everyone should get to keep as much of their money as possible, and spend it however they want to, whether that's on feeding the homeless or stripper cats. Like all government subsidies, the charity deduction interferes with that freedom. People should donate to their church not because the government is a partner in it, but because they truly believe it will help get them into heaven.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Thank God America isn't like Europe—yet

Do we want the United States to be like Europe? The European model has worked in many ways. I am delighted whenever I get a chance to go to Stockholm or Amsterdam, not to mention Rome or Paris. There's a lot to like—a lot to love—about day-to-day life in Europe. But I argue that the answer to this question is “no.” Not for economic reasons. I want to focus on another problem with the European model: namely, that it drains too much of the life from life.

The stuff of life—the elemental events surrounding birth, death, raising children, fulfilling one's personal potential, dealing with adversity, intimate relationships—occurs within just four institutions: family, community, vocation and faith. Seen in this light, the goal of social policy is to ensure that those institutions are robust and vital. The European model doesn't do that. It enfeebles every single one of them.

Drive through rural Sweden, as I did a few years ago. In every town was a beautiful Lutheran church, freshly painted, on meticulously tended grounds, all subsidized by the Swedish government. And the churches are empty. Including on Sundays. The nations of Scandinavia and Western Europe pride themselves on their “child-friendly” policies, providing generous child allowances, free day-care centers and long maternity leaves. Those same countries have fertility rates far below replacement and plunging marriage rates. They are countries where jobs are most carefully protected by government regulation and mandated benefits are most lavish. And with only a few exceptions, they are countries where work is most often seen as a necessary evil, and where the proportions of people who say they love their jobs are the lowest.

Call it the Europe Syndrome. Last April I had occasion to speak in Zurich, where I made some of these same points. Afterward, a few of the 20-something members of the audience came up and said plainly that the phrase “a life well-lived” did not have meaning for them. They were having a great time with their current sex partner and new BMW and the vacation home in Majorca, and they saw no voids in their lives that needed filling.

It was fascinating to hear it said to my face, but not surprising. It conformed to both journalistic and scholarly accounts of a spreading European mentality that goes something like this: Human beings are a collection of chemicals that activate and, after a period of time, deactivate. The purpose of life is to while away the intervening time as pleasantly as possible.

If that's the purpose of life, then work is not a vocation, but something that interferes with the higher good of leisure. If that's the purpose of life, why have a child, when children are so much trouble? If that's the purpose of life, why spend it worrying about neighbors? If that's the purpose of life, what could possibly be the attraction of a religion that says otherwise?

I stand in awe of Europe's past. Which makes Europe's present all the more dispiriting. And should make it something that concentrates our minds wonderfully, for every element of the Europe Syndrome is infiltrating American life as well. The European model provides the intellectual framework for the social policies of the Democratic Party, and it faces no credible opposition from Republican politicians.

Yet not only is the European model inimical to human flour-

ishing, I predict that 21st-century science is going to explain why. A tidal change in our scientific understanding of what makes humans tick is coming, and it will spill over into every crevice of political and cultural life. As Harvard's Edward O. Wilson argues in his book “Consilience,” the social sciences are increasingly going to be shaped by the findings of science. It's already happening. Whether it's psychologists discovering how fetal testosterone affects sex differences in children's behavior or geneticists using haplotypes to differentiate the Dutch from the Italians, the hard sciences are encroaching on questions of race, class and gender that have been at the center of modern social science. And the tendency of the findings lets us predict with some confidence the broad outlines of what the future will bring.

Two premises about human beings are at the heart of the social democratic agenda: what I label “the equality premise” and “the New Man premise.” The equality premise says that, in a fair society, different groups of people—men and women, blacks and whites, straights and gays—will naturally have the same distributions of outcomes in life—the same mean income, the same mean educational attainment, the same proportions who become janitors and who become CEOs. When that doesn't happen, it is because of bad human behavior and an unfair society. Much of the Democratic Party's proposed domestic legislation assumes that this is true.

I'm confident that within a decade, the weight of the new scientific findings will force the left to abandon the equality premise. But if social policy cannot be built on the premise that group differences must be eliminated, what can it be built upon? It can be built upon the premise that used to be part of the warp and woof of American idealism: People must be treated as individuals. The success of social policy is to be measured not by equality of outcomes for groups, but by the freedom of individuals, acting upon their personal abilities, aspirations and values, to seek the kind of life that best suits them.

The second tendency of the new findings of biology will be to show that the New Man premise—which says that human beings are malleable through the right government interventions—is nonsense. Human nature tightly constrains what is politically or culturally possible. More than that, the new findings will confirm that human beings are pretty much the way that wise observers have thought for thousands of years.

The effects on the policy debate will be sweeping. Let me give you an example. For many years, I have been among those who argue that the growth in births to unmarried women has been a social catastrophe—the single most important force behind the growth of the underclass. But while other scholars and I have been able to prove that other family structures *have not* worked as well as the traditional family, I cannot prove that alternatives *could not* work as well, and so the social democrats keep coming up with the next new program that will compensate for the absence of fathers.

Over the next few decades, advances in evolutionary psychology are going to be conjoined with advances in genetic understanding, and I predict that they will lead to a scientific consensus that goes something like this: There are genetic reasons why boys who grow up in neighborhoods without married fathers tend to reach adolescence unsocialized to norms of behavior that

By CHARLES MURRAY

Special to The Washington Post



Charles Murray is the W. H. Brady Scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. This essay is adapted from his 2009 Irving Kristol Lecture.

they will need to stay out of prison and hold jobs. We will still be able to acknowledge that many single women do a wonderful job of raising their children. But social democrats will have to acknowledge that the traditional family plays a special, indispensable role in human flourishing and that social policy must be based on that truth.

For some years a metaphor has been stuck in my mind: The 20th century was the adolescence of Homo sapiens. Nineteenth-century science, from Darwin to Freud, offered a series of body blows to ways of thinking about human life that had prevailed since the dawn of civilization. Humans, just like adolescents, were deprived of some of the comforting simplicities of childhood and exposed to more complex knowledge about the world. And 20th-century intellectuals reacted precisely the way adolescents react when they think they have discovered that Mom and Dad are hopelessly out of date. It was as if they thought that if Darwin was right about evolution, then Aquinas was no longer worth reading; that if Freud was right about the unconscious mind, then the Nicomachean Ethics had nothing to teach us.

The nice thing about adolescence is that it is temporary, and when it passes, people discover that their parents were smarter than they thought. I think that may be happening with the advent of the new century. All of us who deal in social policy will be thinking less like adolescents, entranced with the most titillating new idea, and more like grown-ups. But that will not stop America's slide toward the European model. For that, there must be a kind of political Great Awakening among America's elites. They will have to ask themselves how much they value what has made America exceptional, and what they are willing to do to preserve it.

The trouble is that American elites of all political stripes have increasingly withdrawn to gated communities—literally or figuratively—where they never interact at an intimate level with people not of their own socioeconomic class. Over the last half-century, the new generation of elites have increasingly spent their entire lives in the upper-middle-class bubble, never having seen a factory floor, let alone worked on one, never having gone to a grocery store and bought the cheap ketchup instead of the expensive ketchup to meet a budget, and never having had a close friend who hadn't gotten at least 600 on her verbal SAT.

America's elites must once again fall in love with what makes America different. The drift toward the European model can be stopped only when we are all talking again about why America is exceptional, and why it is so important that America remain exceptional. That requires once again seeing the American project for what it is: a different way for people to live together, unique among the nations of the earth, and immeasurably precious.

Letter to the Editor

Politics, Saipan-style

Let us take a look at why the governor did not want the budget passed. As long as there was no budget he could just keep on spending money and hiring new employees. The game is as old as politics itself. The more people that he could hire, the more votes he will have for his re-election bid. How long are you going to let the politicians use you like a bunch of pawns on a chessboard? You seem to have forgotten that the politicians work for you, not you for them. As long as you let them use you and keep you in fear of speaking up they will continue to control you. When a government worker is afraid to speak up for fear of reprisal, you are in trouble. This is supposed to be a democracy, not a Third World dictatorship. Everyone has the right to speak their mind. If you or a family member is harassed because you spoke up, there are laws that protect you and your family. All you have to do is file a report with the proper federal agency. If you want to make a descent place for your children to grow up, the time to start is now. Stand up and be counted!

As for the governor, what does he stand for? He has opposed the Marianas marine monument, but we see him in the newspaper

and TV hugging President Bush after he signed it into law. He is opposed to federalization but we see him all smiles at the ribbon cutting at the new USCIS office in Garapan. So just what does he stand for? Or is it that he himself doesn't know? It seems to me that all he really knows is how to spend money and hire people for which there are no real jobs. Then he has the nerve to demand that the men and woman that have been doing the work take a pay cut so that he can hire more deadwood and try to buy enough votes to get re-elected.

I do not know about the residents of Saipan but I feel that it is time to bring politics on Saipan out of the dark ages and into the modern era. The only way you can do it is to use the power of your voices and your votes. How about it, are you ready to demand an honest and open government? I sure hope so!

Speaking about the upcoming election, isn't it strange that every in election year all these community projects come to life. Do they really think we are so stupid that we cannot see what they are doing?

Let us talk about another matter: the stimulus money that the CNMI is trying to get. Has he forgotten that he has a lawsuit

against the federal government? What makes him think that he can have it both ways? Sue them and still ask them for help at the same time. Ask yourself: What would you do if you were the federal government? What makes it even worse is that he did not play by the rules in the first place. The Covenant says that if negotiations fail, either party may sue. But the governor did not bother to try to negotiate. He went right to the lawsuit. I guess he thinks he is above the law and can make up his own rules. The sad part is that the hardworking residents of the CNMI are going to end up paying the cost for his actions.






Residents of the CNMI, now is the time to stand up and be counted! When you go to the poll to vote, ask yourself which candidates are going to make the CNMI a better place for you and your children to grow up in. You can make the difference. Vote for the candidates who will work for the people and not only for themselves.

Frederick Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

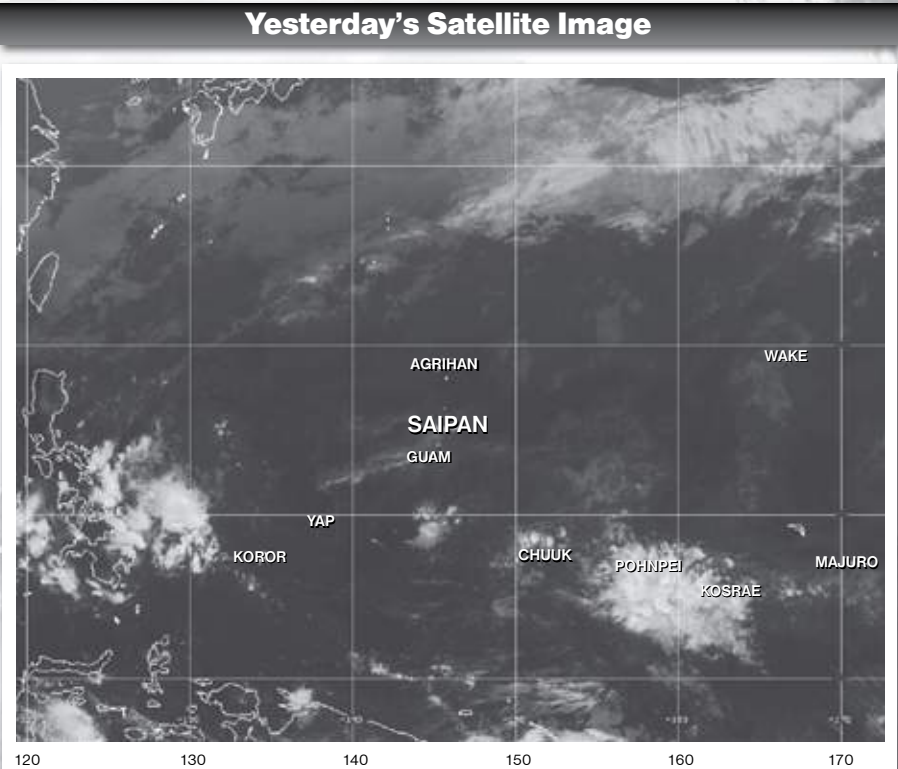
5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲84 ▼75
Palau	Showers	▲88 ▼77
Yap	Showers	▲85 ▼76
Chuuk	Rain	▲88 ▼79
Pohnpei	Rain	▲85 ▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼78
Majuro	Sunny	▲86 ▼75

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Cloudy	▲64 ▼52
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲52 ▼36
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲72 ▼64
Honolulu	Showers	▲77 ▼70
London	Partly Sunny	▲59 ▼47
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Manila	Showers	▲82 ▼76
Melbourne	Sunny	▲80 ▼62
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼74
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲59 ▼43
Osaka	Cloudy	▲53 ▼40
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲56 ▼42
Pusan	Showers	▲54 ▼37
Rome	Thundershowers	▲69 ▼57
Salem	Showers	▲53 ▼38
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲65 ▼50
Seoul	Cloudy	▲48 ▼34
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲56 ▼39
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲64 ▼43

Tides		
Saipan Harbor		
4:40 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:48 AM Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
5:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front cuts through the corner of the discussion area from 25N139E to 21N130E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and up to 70 miles northwest of the cold front. Scattered trade-wind showers are found south of Kosrae between 1N and 5N from 160E to 164E.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Today	9:26 AM	10:59 PM
Wednesday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM	Wednesday	10:26 AM	
Thursday	6:12 AM	6:30 PM	Thursday	11:29 AM	12:01 AM
Friday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Friday	12:32 PM	12:59 AM
Saturday	6:11 AM	6:30 PM	Saturday	1:34 PM	1:53 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
- **ISLAND SNAPSHOTS**
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - **BUSINESS**
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - **SAMUT SARI**
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - **TRAVELOGUE**
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- **COMMUNITY BRIEFS**

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

- REQUIREMENTS**
- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily
Guam-Narita NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily	Narita-Guam NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily
Saipan-Osaka OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1,4,6	Osaka-Saipan OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7
Guam-Osaka NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily	Osaka-Guam NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily
Guam-Nagoya NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily	Nagoya-Guam NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily
Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily	Incheon-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7
Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6	Shanghai-Saipan FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5
Rota-Guam CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7	Guam-Rota CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6
Guam-Palau CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5	Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am 1,2 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4,6
Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5	Manila-Palau CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5
Guam-Manila CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:05am+1 Daily PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Nagoya-Manila NW 71 8:40pm 11:55pm Daily	Manila-Nagoya NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily
Incheon-Hongkong OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily OZ 723 7:45pm 10:35pm Daily OZ 7173 8:00pm 10:50pm 5,7	Hongkong-Incheon OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6 OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily
Narita-Manila NW 1 7:00pm 10:55pm Daily	Manila-Narita NW 2 7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Chinese TV channel finds CNMI '4S Charming'

"4S Charming" is how the Chinese Tourism TV channel is touting the sky, sea, and sand of Saipan in a two-hour special on the Northern Marian Islands.

An eight-member production team of the tourism channel explored the islands of Saipan and Tinian on March 17-21, 2009, to produce a broadcast for airing in April 2009. The program will be divided into five-minute segments throughout the month, airing on the station's tourism channel targeting 500,000 viewers in 20 cities, largely middle-class travelers and families.

"We believe that every inch of the film negative will reflect the beauty of CNMI: the sky, the sea, the sand and Saipan will be combined into the slogan '4S Charming' to our viewers," said program director Huang Heqiang through a translator. "The most impressive is the hospitality of the people."

On Saipan the media group visited diving hot spot Grotto; Laolao Bay Golf Resort; Bird Island Lookout, home to hundreds of seabirds; World War II historic sites Banzai Cliff and the Last Command Post. Snorkeling, a banana boat ride and parasailing were enjoyed, as well as a sun-



The production team of a Chinese tourism TV Channel film on location at a noni farm in Marpi during their visit March 17-19, 2009. The team will feature the sea, sky, and sand of Saipan and Tinian in a series of short features in April 2009. Also pictured are Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist LJ Deleon Guerrero, center, who helped facilitate the production, and noni farm owner Ta Bun Kuy, far right.

set dinner cruise in Saipan's lagoon. The team also took a jungle tour and explored shopping opportunities at DFS Galleria.

"Saipan has been famous since 2008, when more and more advertising and exposure occurred [in our region]," said Huang Heqiang. "Saipan has also gained high-ranking in reputation and travel de-

sire. That is also one of the reasons we came."

On Tinian, the team vis-

ited Taga Latte Stone Park where limestone monoliths carved by ancient indigenous

USCG amends rule for TWIC implementation in A. Samoa

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Coast Guard announced Friday it has submitted to the Federal Register a rulemaking to amend one provision of the Jan. 25, 2007, final rule "Transportation Worker Identification Credential Implementation in the Maritime Sector; Hazardous Materials Endorsement for a Commercial Driver's License."

The new rulemaking, that shares the same title as the Jan. 25, 2007 rule, amends the definition of "secure area" in Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 101.105, to state that facilities otherwise subject to 33 CFR part 105 located in the territory of American Samoa do not have secure areas for the purposes of the Transportation Worker Identification Credential regulations. This action means that only the facility security officer and facility personnel whose primary employment responsibility is security, will be required to obtain a Transportation Worker Identification Credential per 33

CFR 105.205 and 105.210.

While American Samoa is part of the United States, it is not currently included in the definition of "United States" for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (Title 8, United States Code, Section 1101(a) (38)). Therefore, the work authorization of aliens in American Samoa is a matter of territorial law only and the U.S. immigra-

tion statuses relevant to Transportation Worker Identification Credential eligibility determinations in U.S. jurisdictions subject to the Immigration and Nationality Act do not apply there.

The rulemaking, effective upon publication, ensures that after April 14, maritime businesses in the territory of American Samoa are able to continue operating without significantly impacting the security risk to the

port area. Without the amendment, these businesses would be forced to escort the vast majority of their personnel in secure areas, because more than three-quarters of the maritime workforce who would require a Transportation Worker Identification Credential cannot qualify for one. Having to escort such a large number of workers in secure areas would be unduly disruptive to commerce in American Samoa and is therefore contrary to the public interest.

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential was established in the Maritime Transportation Security Act and the Security and Accountability for Every Port Act to serve as an identification program for all Coast Guard credentialed mariners and personnel requiring unescorted access to secure areas within a port. More information can be found on the U.S. Coast Guard's Homeport Web site at <http://homeport.uscg.mil/twic>. (USCG)

"We were very pleased to assist with this production," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "China has proven a strong source market for our islands in the past, and we will continue to welcome visitors from China as long as possible." (MVA)

ON THE NET

U.S. Coast Guard Web site:
<http://homeport.uscg.mil/twic>

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PRE-SUMMIT SESSION

Sergio Loya, right, project manager of consulting firm Management Analysis Inc., gestures as he shares his ideas about aquaculture as one of four identified alternative industries in the CNMI during a break out session at the Pre-Economic Restoration Summit for lawmakers, including Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes, left, and other government officials at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Discontent in French Polynesia's governing coalition

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—There is deepening dissent between French Polynesia's veteran politicians, Oscar Temaru and Gaston Flosse, less than two months after they succeeded in a joint effort to bring about an end to the year-long presidency of Gaston Tong Sang. President Oscar Temaru has labelled Mr Flosse irresponsible for bypassing him in efforts to set up a commission of inquiry into the running of the territory's carrier, Air Tahiti Nui. This comes amid disagreement in budget matters but which have seen opposition politicians backing the Temaru administration, saying this stance was in the people's interest.

Huge marijuana bust in Fiji

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Times/PIR)—Police believe they have confiscated more than \$200million [US\$112 million] worth of marijuana from the Navosa highlands through the joint police/military exercise, Operation Yadra Viti; an exercise that is shaping up to be Fiji's biggest drug bust yet. Drugs analysts stationed at the operation's base in the highlands means the plants gathered by the 100-men squad from the 20-plus farms that have been raided so far are promptly verified. Six men of Draiba and Vatubalavu villages are in police custody and are being interrogated on the suspicion of farming marijuana, said police spokesman Atunaisa Sokomuri.

New Caledonia nickel workers oppose cut in hours

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—An estimated 200 members of New Caledonia's CSTNC union have held a demonstration outside the government seat, demanding that working hours remain the same at the SLN nickel company. Last month, SLN proposed a ten percent cut in the number of hours worked to cope with the economic downturn and the planned 20 percent decrease in nickel production this year. The AFP news agency says the demonstrators have also asked the government to oppose cuts at SLN, which is the territory's biggest private sector employer. Several unions have made use of their right to check the company's books, with first findings to be made public this week.

Pre-summit session

Sergio Loya, right, project manager of consulting firm Management Analysis Inc., gestures as he shares his ideas about aquaculture as one of four identified alternative industries in the CNMI during a break out session at the Pre-Economic Restoration Summit for lawmakers, including Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes, left, and other government officials at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Friday. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

NMC SUMMER 2009 CALENDAR

The Northern Marianas College has announced the following academic dates for the Summer 2009 Semester:

REGULAR SUMMER SESSION: May 26–July 24, 2009 (9-Week Courses)

May 20–22 (Wed–Fri): Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 26 (Tue): First Day of Instruction
May 26–28 (Tue–Thu): Add/Drop Days
June 2 (Tue): Last Day for 80 percent Refund
June 5 (Fri): Last Day for 40 percent Refund
June 12 (Fri): Last Day to Withdraw (from nine-week courses)
July 3 (Fri): Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
July 23 (Thu): Last Day of Instruction
July 24 (Fri): Final Exam

EXTENDED SUMMER SESSION: May 26–August 14, 2009 (12-Week Courses)

May 20–22 (Wed–Fri): Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 26 (Tue): First Day of Instruction
May 26–28 (Tue–Thu): Add/Drop Days
June 5 (Fri): Last Day for 80 percent Refund
June 12 (Fri): Last Day for 40 percent Refund
June 19 (Fri): Last Day to Withdraw (from twelve-week courses)
July 3 (Fri): Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
August 13 (Thu): Last Day of Instruction
August 14 (Fri): Final Exam

SUMMER SESSION I: May 26–July 2, 2009 (6-Week Courses)

May 20–22 (Wed–Fri): Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 26 (Tue): First Day of Instruction
May 26 – 28 (Tue–Thu): Add/Drop Days
May 29 (Fri): Last Day for 80 percent Refund
June 3 (Wed): Last Day for 40 percent Refund
June 5 (Fri): Last Day to Withdraw (from 1st six-week courses)
July 1 (Wed): Last Day of Instruction
July 2 (Thu): Final Exam

SUMMER SESSION II: July 6–August 14, 2009 (6-Week Courses)

May 20–22 (Wed–Fri): Registration (9am – 6pm)
May 26–July 2: Registration (9:00 am–5:00 pm)
July 3 (Fri): Legal Holiday (Liberation Day)
July 6 (Mon): First Day of Instruction
July 6–8 (Mon–Wed): Add/Drop Days
July 9 (Thu): Last Day for 80 percent Refund
July 14 (Tue): Last Day for 40 percent Refund
July 17 (Fri): Last Day to Withdraw (from 2nd six-week courses)
August 13 (Thu): Last Day of Instruction
August 14 (Fri): Final Exam

Business

GM CEO Wagoner to step down at White House request

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Corp. Chairman and CEO Rick Wagoner will step down immediately at the request of the White House, administration officials said Sunday. The news comes as President Obama prepares to unveil additional restructuring efforts designed to save the domestic auto industry.

The officials asked not to be identified because details of the restructuring plan have not yet been made public. On Monday, Obama is to announce plans to restructure GM and Chrysler LLC in exchange for additional government loans. The companies have been living on \$17.4 billion in government aid and have requested \$21.6 billion more.

Wagoner's departure indicates that more management changes may be part of the deal. Wagoner, 56, has repeatedly said he felt it was better for the company if he led it through the crisis, but he has faced sharp criticism on Capitol Hill for what many lawmakers regard as years of missteps, mistakes and arrogance by the Big Three automakers.

Wagoner joined GM in 1977, serving in several capacities in the U.S., Brazil and Europe. He became president and chief executive in 2000 and has served as chairman and CEO since May 2003.

Obama said Sunday that GM and Chrysler and all those with a stake in their survival need to take more hard steps to help the struggling automakers restructure for the future. In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation" broadcast Sunday, Obama said the companies must do more to receive additional financial aid from the government.

"They're not there yet," he said.

A person familiar with Obama's plans said last week they would go deeper than what the Bush administration demanded when it approved the initial loans last year.



In this Feb. 17, 2009 file photo, General Motors Chairman and Chief Executive Rick Wagoner walks off after addressing the media about the company's restructuring plans in Detroit.

Wagoner, in an interview with The Associated Press in December, had declined to speculate on suggestions from some members of Congress that GM's leadership team should step down as part of any rescue package.

"I'm doing what I do because it adds a lot of value to the company," Wagoner said in a Dec. 4 interview as GM sought federal aid from the Bush administration. "It's not clear to me that experience in this industry should be viewed as a negative but I'm going to do what's right for the company and I'll do it in consultation with the (GM)

board (of directors)."

Wagoner has been credited by auto industry analysts with doing more to restructure the giant, bureaucratic automaker than any other executive. But given that he has been at GM's helm for so long, many of his critics say he moved far too slowly to take on the United Auto Workers and shrink the company as its market share tumbled.

While GM has improved its cars in the last two years, critics say the company relied for too long on sales of pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles for its profits and was unprepared for

a drastic market shift when gasoline prices hit \$4 per gallon last year.

During the Congressional debate over whether to give GM and Chrysler loans last year, many lawmakers criticized Wagoner, including Sen. Chris Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Banking Committee.

He accused automakers' top management of having a "head-in-the-sand" approach to problems and said Wagoner "has to move on" as part of a government-run restructuring that should be a condition of financial life support for the auto industry.

Toy, luxury stores eye Christmas 2009 with caution

NEW YORK (AP)—Shoppers may be thinking about spring, but some retailers are reluctantly setting their sights on Christmas.

Still suffering whiplash from the worst holiday selling season in at least four decades, major toy sellers and upscale merchants—who must order Christmas stock earlier than most retailers—are exercising extreme caution as they plan for the rest of the year.

They're ordering at lower prices, they're keeping orders small and they're planning to buy more only if consumer demand picks up, said David Wolfe, creative director of The Doneger Group, which consults with stores on apparel buying.

For shoppers, this hesitance will translate into fewer choices and, if demand increases at all, fewer bargains. For factories abroad, it's feeding desperation at the time of year when manufacturers usually start ramping up to fill summer and Christmas orders.

But retailers are more worried they'll be stuck with unsold merchandise they'll have to discount than that their shelves will go bare.

Obama conditions bailout funds for automakers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House says neither General Motors nor Chrysler submitted acceptable plans to receive more bailout money, setting the stage for a crisis in Detroit that would dramatically reshape the nation's auto industry.

President Barack Obama and his top advisers have determined that neither company is viable and that taxpayers will not spend untold billions more to keep the pair of automakers open forever. In a last-ditch effort, the administration gave each company a brief deadline to try one last time to convince Washington it is worth saving, said senior administration officials who spoke

on the condition of anonymity to more bluntly discuss the decision.

Obama was set to make the announcement at 11 a.m. Monday in the White House's foyer.

In an interview with CBS' "Face the Nation" broadcast Sunday, Obama said the companies must do more to receive additional financial aid from the government.

"We think we can have a successful U.S. auto industry. But it's got to be one that's realistically designed to weather this storm and to emerge—at the other end—much more lean, mean and competitive than it currently is," Obama said.

Frustrated administration officials

said Chrysler cannot function as an independent company under its current plan. They have given Chrysler a 30-day window to complete a proposed partnership with Italian automaker Fiat SpA, and will offer up to \$6 billion to the companies if they can negotiate a deal before time runs out.

If a Chrysler-Fiat union cannot be completed, Washington plans to walk away, leaving Chrysler destined for a complete sell-off. No other money is available.

Shawn Morgan, a Chrysler spokeswoman, said the company wants to work with the Treasury Department and Obama's auto task force but declined to comment on the White House's plans.

Smoke break gets more expensive with tax boost

WASHINGTON (AP)—However they satisfy their nicotine cravings, tobacco users are facing a big hit as the single largest federal tobacco tax increase ever takes effect Wednesday.

Tobacco companies and public health advocates, longtime foes in the nicotine battles, are trying to turn the situation to their advantage. The major cigarette makers raised prices a couple of weeks ago, partly to offset any drop in profits once the per-pack tax climbs from 39 cents to \$1.01.

Medical groups see a tax increase right in the middle of a recession as a great incentive to help persuade smokers to quit.

Tobacco taxes are soaring to finance a major expansion of health insurance for children. President Barack Obama signed that health initiative soon after taking office.

Other tobacco products, from cigars to pipes and smokeless, will see similarly large tax increases, too. For example, the tax on chewing tobacco will

go up from 19.5 cents per pound to 50 cents. The total expected to be raised over the 4 1/2 year-long health insurance expansion is nearly \$33 billion.

Smokers are mulling their options.

Standing outside an office building in downtown Washington last week, 29-year-old Sam Sarkhosh puffed on a Marlboro Light. His 8-year-old daughter has been pleading with him to quit, he explained, and he has set a goal to give up smoking by his 30th birthday.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Ethnic press stung by recession, advertising drop

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The sinking economy is threatening the ethnic publications that immigrant communities rely upon to stay informed and navigate American life. Although the ethnic press once seemed immune to the forces hurting mainstream newspapers across the country, a growing number of publications that serve immigrant and minority communities are laying off staff, closing print editions or shutting down altogether. Unlike mainstream newspapers, which have seen circulation decline over the decades, most ethnic publications have been retaining or expanding their print readership base, thanks to the growth of immigrant populations with strong newspaper reading habits. But a severe recession has led to a steep drop in advertising from small businesses, including many owned by immigrants, that have come to rely on the ethnic press to reach these communities. As a result, ethnic or racial groups in some communities might lose the only media organizations that cover issues important to them, and businesses and government agencies will have more trouble reaching groups that speak little or no English. Many immigrant communities depend on such newspapers, which often have circulations in the tens of thousands, to keep informed about regional and national affairs and follow news in their home countries. For example, Chinese-language newspapers provided extensive coverage of last year's devastating earthquake in China's Sichuan province and helped mobilize donations for the victims.

Top French carmaker ousts CEO Streiff

PARIS (AP)—France's biggest carmaker, PSA Peugeot-Citroen, ousted CEO Christian Streiff on Sunday, saying "exceptional difficulties" confronting the auto industry require new management at the top. Philippe Varin is being brought in from outside the company June 1 to replace Streiff, the company said in a statement. Roland Vardanega, a member of the three-man board of directors at the car company, will preside over the company until then. Varin, 56, has worked for French aluminum producer Pechiney and British-Dutch company Corus, helping to turn around the steelmaker's fortunes. Peugeot-Citroen last month announced a net loss of euro343 million (\$433 million) in 2008 compared with a net profit of euro885 million a year earlier. It predicted another loss this year. The carmaker, along with Renault SA, won a government rescue package that includes euro7.5 billion (\$9.8 billion) over five years in low-interest loans. In return it promised not to lay anyone off this year or close factories.

Nation

Fargo divides day between church, city's salvation

FARGO, N.D. (AP)—Weary residents of this sandbagged city came together in churches Sunday, counting their blessings that the Red River finally stopped rising and praying the levees would hold back its wrath. A brief levee break that swamped a school provided a warning of the kind of threat that still hangs over them in the days ahead.

Church services that are a staple of life on Sunday mornings in Fargo took

on greater significance as people gathered after a week of round-the clock sandbagging. They sang hymns and held hands, asking together for divine help in avoiding disaster.

"At a time like this, we need to call on God's providential assistance," said the Rev. Bob Ona, pastor of Fargo's First Assembly of God church. "All of you have been heroic in your efforts. All of you have been pushed past the wall of wea-

riiness, exhaustion and numerous frustrations in order to do the right thing—help people in the name of the Lord."

The Red River continued its slow retreat Sunday after cresting a day earlier, dropping below record level to 39.88 feet. City officials have said they would breathe easier when the river falls to 37 feet or lower, expected by Saturday, meaning a lengthy test for sandbag levees that residents hastily constructed last week.

Fargo faces another test this week as a storm approached with up to a half-foot of snow and powerful wind gusts that could send ferocious waves crashing into and over the already-stressed levees.

The sandbag effort resumed Sunday as helicopters began dropping 11 one-ton sandbags into the river to deflect its violent current and keep it from eroding vulnerable areas of the dike system.

The aerial effort also included an un-

manned Predator drone used to watch flood patterns and ice floes and provide high-definition information to teams on the ground. North Dakota has more than 2,400 National Guard troops engaged in the flood fight across the state.

The helicopter sandbag effort was focused on an area of the river that put another scare into the city during the night when it burst past a levee and submerged a Lutheran school campus.

7 residents, 1 nurse die in nursing home shooting

CARTHAGE, N.C. (AP)—A lone gunman burst into a North Carolina nursing home Sunday morning and started "shooting everything," barging into the rooms of terrified patients, sparing some from his rampage without explanation while killing seven residents and a nurse caring for them.

Authorities said Robert Stewart also wounded three others, including the Carthage police officer who confronted him in a hallway of Pinelake Health and Rehab and stopped the brutal attack.

"He acted in nothing short of a heroic way today, and but for his actions, we certainly could have had a worse tragedy," said Moore County District Attorney Maureen Krueger. "We had an officer, a well-trained officer, who performed his job the way he was supposed to and prevented this from getting even worse than it is now."

By late Sunday afternoon, Krueger had charged Stewart, 45, of Moore County, with eight counts of first-degree murder and a single charge of felony assault of a law enforcement officer. Authorities offered few other details, allowing only that Stewart was not a patient or an employee at the nursing home and isn't believed to be

related to any of the victims.

"I don't know if the emotion entirely has set in," said Police Chief Chris McKenzie, a Carthage native who said nothing in his nearly 20-year law enforcement career compared to Sunday's slaughter. "It's a small community built on faith, and faith will get us through."

Authorities said Stewart began his rampage around 10 a.m. at Pinelake Health and Rehab in the North Carolina Sandhills about 60 miles southwest of Raleigh, firing shots inside and outside the home. It ended when 25-year-old Officer Justin Garner traded gunfire with Stewart in a hallway, wounding the suspect.

"He just comes in and just starts shooting everything around," said Sen. Harris Blake, of Moore County, relating the story told by sheriff's officials.

Garner was wounded in his leg, and police said Stewart wounded two others. One person remained hospitalized Sunday night at FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in nearby Pinehurst, and police would only say Stewart was in the custody of the Moore County Sheriff.

Krueger said the victims were Pinelake residents Tessie Garner, 88;



Lillian Dunn, 89; Jessie Musser, 88; Bessie Hendrick, 78; John Goldston, 78; Margaret Johnson, 89; Louise Decker, 98; and nurse Jerry Avent, whose age wasn't immediately available.

Krueger declined to say where authorities had taken the surviving residents, including patients with Alzheimer's disease, saying only, "They're safe, which is the primary thing."

Beverly McNeill said her mother, Pinelake resident Ellery Chishole, called moments after the gunman stormed into her room and pointed his "deer gun" at her roommate. "They're up here shooting, they're up here shooting," she frantically told her 14-year-old granddaughter, Tavia, over the phone.

Chishole told her daughter she hid her face in her shirt so she couldn't see the man or what she expected him to do, McNeill said. He didn't shoot, but left the room and began shooting down the hallway.

Investigators examine a weapon at the scene where a gunman opened fire at a nursing home Sunday morning, killing at least six people and wounding several others in Carthage, N.C., Sunday, March 29, 2009.

AP

Huffington plans investigative journalism venture

NEW YORK (AP)—The Huffington Post said Sunday that it will bankroll a group of investigative journalists, directing them at first to look at stories about the nation's economy.

The popular Web site is collaborating with The Atlantic Philanthropies and other donors to launch the Huffington Post Investigative Fund with an initial budget of \$1.75 million. That should be enough for 10 staff journalists who will primarily coordinate stories with freelancers, said Arianna Huffington, co-founder and editor-in-chief of The Huffington Post.

Work that the journalists produce will be available for any publication or Web site to use at the same time it is posted on The Huffington Post, she said.

The Huffington Post Web site is a collection of opinionated blog entries and breaking news. It has seven staff reporters.

Huffington said she and the donors were concerned that layoffs at newspapers were hurting investigative journalism at a time the nation's institutions need to be watched closely. She hopes to draw from the ranks of laid-off journalists for the venture.

Guns on campus: Bills would allow guns at college

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—John Woods sometimes sits in a classroom at the University of Texas and wonders what would happen if somebody walked in and started shooting.

In April 2007, he was a student at Virginia Tech when his girlfriend and several other people he knew there were gunned down in the deadliest mass shooting in

modern U.S. history. Thirty-two people died, plus the gunman.

There were times when Woods thought that maybe he should get a gun.

"Then I learned pretty fast that wouldn't solve anything," said Woods, who is now a graduate student at UT. "The idea that somebody could stop a school shooting with a gun is impos-

sible. It's reactive, not preventative."

Today, Woods is among the leaders in a fight against bills in the Texas Legislature that would allow licensed concealed gun carriers to take their weapons to school.

A public hearing is set for Monday in the House Public Safety Committee on one bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe

Driver, a Garland Republican.

Supporters say the bills would protect the rights of those licensed to carry concealed weapons and help prevent a massacre on the scale of what happened at Virginia Tech and another shooting last year at Northern Illinois University, where five were killed and 18 wounded.



ACROSS THE NATION

Gates: No change soon on 'don't ask, don't tell'

WASHINGTON (AP)—Don't expect any change soon to the "don't ask, don't tell" policy about gays in the military. Defense Secretary Robert Gates says both he and President Barack Obama have "a lot on our plates right now." As Gates puts it, "let's push that one down the road a little bit." The White House has said Obama has begun consulting with Gates and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on how to lift the ban. Gates says that dialogue has not really progressed very far at this point in the administration. The Pentagon policy was put in place after President Bill Clinton tried to lift the ban on gay service members in 1993. The policy refers to the military practice of not asking recruits their sexual orientation. In turn, service members are banned from say-

ing they are gay or bisexual, engaging in homosexual activity or trying to marry a member of the same sex. Gates appeared on "Fox News Sunday."

Mass. man kills 2 sisters, but police save the 3rd

MILTON, Mass. (AP)—A man on a rampage fatally stabbed his 17-year-old sister, decapitated his 5-year-old sister in front of a police officer and then turned toward his 9-year-old sister with a knife in his hand before officers shot him dead in what their chief described as "a killing field." There was no clear motive for the events that unfolded Saturday, the day after the 5-year-old's birthday, in a tony Boston suburb that also is home to Gov. Deval Patrick. But there was no doubt at the carnage wrought by 23-year-old Kerby Revelus against his sisters in the two-family

home they shared with their parents and grandmother. Five-year-old Bianca was killed as a cake for her birthday, which investigators believe was Friday, sat on the kitchen table. Nine-year-old Sarafina dialed 911 and watched police shoot her brother as her elder sister, 17-year-old Samantha, lay dead on the floor. Sarafina was hospitalized Sunday with defensive wounds to her hands and stab wounds in her abdomen and one of her legs, police said.

Urban coyote attacks on rise, alarming residents

DENVER (AP)—A coyote ambling into a Chicago sandwich shop or taking up residence in New York's Central Park understandably creates a stir. But even here on the high plains of Colorado, where the animals are part of the landscape and figure prominently in West-

ern lore, people are being taken aback by rising coyote encounters. Thanks to suburban sprawl and a growth in numbers of both people and animals, a rash of coyote encounters has alarmed residents. Wildlife officials are working to educate the public: Coyotes have always been here, they've adapted to urban landscapes and they prefer to avoid humans. "Ninety-five percent of this problem is a human problem, and we really need to focus on that 95 percent to solve it," said Nicole Rosmarino, wildlife program director of the environmental group WildEarth Guardians. Since December, four people in the Denver area have been nipped or bitten by coyotes. A fifth told police a coyote lunged at him. State wildlife officers have killed seven coyotes. An eighth was killed by a sharpshooter hired by Greenwood Village, in Denver's southern suburbs.

Asia

Filipino rebels warn US troops not to join combat

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Communist guerrillas vowed to intensify attacks against government forces Sunday and threatened to fight American troops if they join counterinsurgency assaults.

The 120,000-strong military played down the threat by the New People's Army, which marked its 40th anniversary Sunday, saying the rebels have been considerably weakened by battle setbacks and could be crushed by next year as President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered.

"The New People's Army warns that it can defend itself and the people if assaulted by the puppet Philippine military and police and American troops," regional rebel spokesman Greg Banares said in a statement sent to news agencies.

U.S. and other foreign troops are barred from local combat by the Philippine Constitution.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants who have threatened to behead three Red Cross hostages rejected a limited



Masked female activists display a flag of the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines and other underground organizations during a lightning rally marking the 40th anniversary of the communist armed group, the New Peoples Army Thursday, March 26, 2009 in Manila, Philippines.

pullout of government forces in exchange for the release of one of the captives, an official said Sunday.

Sulu provincial Gov. Abdusakur Tan said Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad told him by phone Sunday that a limited withdrawal of more than 1,000 marines, police and armed village guards on southern Jolo island was unacceptable, adding the militants will

not release any hostages.

"They're insisting on a total pullout," Tan told The Associated Press by telephone. "That is their position, and he said they're not budging."

The development leaves uncertain the fate of three International Committee of the Red Cross workers—an Italian, a Swiss and a Filipino—who were abducted Jan. 15 after inspecting a Jolo jail water project.

Hard-to-cure TB poses new global health threat

BEIJING (AP)—The Beijing Chest Hospital was packed with people on a recent weekday morning. In the waiting area, Wang Chong, a migrant worker who has been fighting tuberculosis for several months, was facing a dilemma: Does he continue treatment that has already cost him more than \$5,000 or stop before his savings are wiped out?

It's not only his health at stake. If Wang stops treatment prematurely, his tuberculosis is likely to morph into one of the new, harder strains that resist the drugs he has been using and that pose a growing threat to global public health. Countries as diverse as China, Russia and South Africa are vulnerable, and the new strains have also ap-

peared in the United States.

"TB is now taking on a deadly new form—one that will spread further," said Cornelia Hennig, the World Health Organization's TB program coordinator for China. "We can choose: Either we act now with rational and proven approaches, or we pay later with a worsening epidemic."

of Sri Lanka's visiting cricket team in the heart of the city—was still going on more than three hours after the attack began. Paramilitary troops rushed in to the compound to help, while some police tried to escape the compound by crawling on their hands and knees around others' limp bodies. "It is a complete panic here. We do not have any idea how many the attackers are, and how many of them are dead, or hiding in nearby buildings," officer Syed Ahmad Mobin told The Associated Press. "We are fighting them."

SKorea opposes military reaction to NKorean launch

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Lee Myung-bak said South Korea opposes any military response to North Korea's planned launch of a rocket, while Washington's defense chief said the U.S. won't try to shoot it down. The remarks by Lee and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates appear to reflect concerns that any tough reaction could send tensions spiking out of control at a time when the communist regime is warning that even U.N. sanctions would prompt it to quit nuclear disarmament talks. North Korea says it will launch a communications satellite into orbit between April 4 and 8 as part of its space development program. Regional powers, however, suspect the North is using the launch to test long-range missile technology.

World

UN suggests power-sharing for Kirkuk

KIRKUK, Iraq (AP)—Seeking to head off an explosion of ethnic violence, the United Nations will call for a power-sharing system of government for Iraq's deeply divided region of Kirkuk in the oil-rich north.

A draft U.N. plan, outlined to The Associated Press by two Western officials, aims to defuse dangerous tensions. Kurds, a majority in the region, have been trying to wrest

control from Arabs, Turkomen and other rival ethnic groups. If open warfare breaks out, it could jeopardize the U.S. goal of stability across Iraq before elections at year's end.

Peaceful elections are critical to reducing the U.S. presence in Iraq, promised by President Barack Obama.

The U.N. has played only a minor role in Iraq since 2003, when its Baghdad headquarters

was destroyed by a truck bomb. Now, officials in Kirkuk say the U.N. efforts may be the last chance for a peaceful outcome.

Without a resolution, "I think Kirkuk will be like a TNT barrel and explode and burn everybody," Iraqi parliament lawmaker Mohammed Mahdi Amin al-Bayati, a Turkoman, said in an interview this week.

Deputy Gov. Rakan Saeed al-Jubouri, a Sunni Arab, agreed.

US-backed Iraqi troops quell Baghdad uprising

BAGHDAD (AP)—U.S.-backed Iraqi forces swept through a central Baghdad slum Sunday, disarming Sunnis from a government-allied paramilitary group to quell a two-day uprising launched to protest the arrest of their leader.

At least four people were killed and 21 wounded in the two days of fighting between government troops and the Awakening Council in Fadhil, a ramshackle warren of narrow, fetid streets on the east side of the Tigris River where al-Qaida once held sway.

The confrontation in Fadhil could be explosive if it leads to a split between the Shiite-led government and the Awakening Councils, made

up of Sunnis who abandoned al-Qaida and joined forces with the Americans to fight the insurgents.

Distrust runs deep between the Shiite-led government and the Awakening Councils, which the U.S. calls Sons of Iraq, because many of them are ex-insurgents. There have been fears that some fighters may return to the insurgency if they feel threatened by the government.

That could undermine U.S. plans to remove all combat troops from Baghdad and other cities by the end of June and end the U.S. combat role in Iraq by September 2010.

Members of the Fadhil council said Sunday they decided

to give up the fight and hand over their weapons to spare the neighborhood, whose bullet-pocked buildings bore witness to intense combat there two years ago.

Most of the top council members fled the neighborhood as Iraqi troops searched house-to-house, according to residents who spoke on condition of anonymity because they feared for their safety.

Nevertheless, a few fighters were still holding out. An Iraqi patrol, accompanied by an Associated Press photo and video team, came under heavy fire, sending them ducking for cover as bullets sheared off bits of mortar from the buildings lining the narrow alleyway.

WORLD BRIEFS

22 killed at stampede at match in Ivory Coast

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—A stampede at a World Cup qualifying soccer match in the Ivory Coast killed at least 22 people and wounded 132 Sunday, authorities said. Fans at the Felix Houphouet-Boigny arena pushed against each other shortly before the game between Ivory Coast and Malawi, setting off a panic that led to the stampede, Interior Minister Desire Tagro said on state television. "They started pushing to get in because the match was about to start and each and every one of them wanted to get in," Tagro said. An Associated Press photographer said people began shoving and pushing 40 minutes before the beginning of the game. Police fired tear gas into one section of the crowd. Ollo Kambire, a reporter for "Super Sport," a daily newspaper focusing on sports, said that a wall collapsed under the weight of the fans as they pushed toward the field. "We saw people falling. ... Then there was panic and a stampede," he said. Ivory Coast won the match 5-0.

Palestinian orchestra shut after Holocaust concert

JENIN, West Bank (AP)—Authorities in an impoverished Palestinian refugee camp have shut down a youth orchestra, boarded up its rehearsal studio and banned its conductor from the camp after she took 13 young musicians to perform for Holocaust survivors in Israel, an official said Sunday. Conductor Wafa Younes took the children from her Strings of Freedom orchestra to sing songs of peace last week as

part of an annual Good Deeds Day organized by Israel's richest woman. But once parents and leaders back in West Bank's Jenin refugee camp realized where the group had been, they shut down the program, saying Younes had dragged the children into a political issue. The discord highlights both the distrust many Palestinians have of any engagement with Israel, as well as their reluctance to acknowledge Jewish historical suffering because of concerns that it weakens their own claim to this disputed land.

Israel: Militants smuggled tons of weapons to Gaza

JERUSALEM (AP)—Palestinian militants have smuggled nearly 70 tons of explosives and bomb-making materials and other weapons into Gaza since Israel ended an offensive meant to choke off the arms flow, a senior Israeli defense official said Sunday. The assessment by the chief of Israel's internal security service, Yuval Diskin, reinforced a growing feeling among Israelis that the government ended the war too soon. Diskin told the Cabinet that since the three-week military operation ended Jan. 18, Gaza militants have smuggled into the territory 22 tons of explosives, 45 tons of raw materials for producing bombs, dozens of rockets, hundreds of mortar shells and dozens of anti-tank and anti-aircraft missiles. The weapons are coming in through Gaza's porous border with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, despite improved Egyptian interdiction, Diskin said. His remarks were reported by meeting participants who spoke on condition of anonymity because the session was closed.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Long-delayed Khmer Rouge genocide trial to begin

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Human rights groups welcomed the long-awaited start Monday of Cambodia's first genocide trial, but urged the U.N.-backed tribunal to bring many more Khmer Rouge leaders to justice. The tribunal is seeking to establish responsibility for the ultracomunist group's brutal 1975-79 rule, when an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians died of execution, starvation, slave-like working conditions and medical neglect. On Monday, prosecutors launch their case against Kaing Guek Eav, also known as Duch, who is accused of crimes against humanity and war crimes, as well as torture and homicide. Four other senior Khmer Rouge leaders are to be tried over the next year. The group's top leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998.

Gun attack on police academy kills 11 in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Gunmen armed with rifles and hand grenades attacked a police training academy in eastern Pakistan on Monday, killing 11 officers and wounding dozens in a brazen assault that underscored the growing threat militancy poses to the U.S.-allied, nuclear-armed country. The gunbattle on the outskirts of Lahore—coming less than a month after the deadly armed ambush

Overdrive

2009 CHRYSLER SEBRING TOURING

Fleet-worthy sedan rides middle of road

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—We requested it for two weeks, one week longer than we normally keep most test cars. The idea was to live with this one long enough to see if we developed any strong feelings for or against it. We knew it would take time.

But something happened at the beginning of the two-week run that augured an answer. “We” quickly became “me,” as Ria Manglapus, my *Washington Post* assistant for vehicle evaluations, and my wife, Mary Anne, abandoned me to the elusive charms of the 2009 Chrysler Sebring Touring—a base, front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedan with a 2.4-liter, 173-horsepower, inline four-cylinder engine.

It’s not that either one of the women voiced any feelings pro or con. Their reaction to the Sebring Touring reminded me of the way some girls treated me in high school. They just weren’t that into me.

The Sebring Touring and I thus were stuck with one another. It wasn’t a bad relationship. Nor was it one that I’d ever recall with a sigh or smile.

How, then, to explain it?



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Chrysler Sebring Touring, a base, front-wheel-drive, mid-size family sedan, has clean, appealing exterior lines, complemented by a thoughtfully crafted interior. The car looks (or tries to look) high end, but its reality is that of a patrician on a budget.

It’s a good car, an automobile of considerable virtue. It is reminiscent of a Disney movie—good, clean family entertainment, but absent anything that will get dangerous, exciting juices flowing.

Yet its clean, appealing exterior lines, complemented by a thoughtfully crafted interior of aluminum and vinyl, accented by a Tiffany-style analog clock in the center of the instrument panel, in no way qualifies it as boring.

The word “parochial” comes to mind. The four-cylinder Sebring Touring is supported by a community of people who want the basics done well—af-

fordability of purchase and operation, reliability and quality—with a little art thrown in.

They are happy with that and are unaffected by the dismissive smirks of those who view the four-cylinder Sebring Touring as an underpowered family hauler more appropriately described as a utilitarian conveyance than a car.

But I protest. It is a car, and a good one at that. It is less than exciting on the highway, but it gets the job done (eventually), and it does so with reasonable comfort and safety.

The problem is a matter of expectations, partly fostered

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINTS

It’s a matter of expectations, in which case a visually appealing Sebring Touring can prove disappointing on closer inspection and on the road. It is a motorized patrician that has the feel of a bare-bones economy car. Also, I don’t understand why Chrysler essentially offers two base models in this line—the LX and a bottom-feeder version of the Touring.

RIDE, ACCELERATION, AND HANDLING

It gets decent marks in all three categories—nothing memorable good or bad.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Good, inside and out.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Sebring is a front-engine, midsize family car available as a sedan and convertible with either a soft top or retractable hard top. The sedan is offered with front-wheel or all-wheel drive. The convertible comes with front-wheel drive only.

ENGINES/TRANSMISSIONS

There are two six-cylinder engines—a 189-horsepower, 2.7-liter V-6 and a 3.5-liter, 235-horsepower V-6. The 2.4 liter, inline, four-cylinder engine in the tested Sebring Touring develops 173 horsepower at 6,000 rpm and 166 foot-pounds of torque at 4,400 rpm. The engine is mated to a four-speed automatic transmission in a product category where more fuel-efficient five-speed gearboxes are becoming common.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Cargo capacity is 13.1 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 16.9 gallons of recommended regular unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

I got close to 30 miles per gallon on the highway. City/highway mileage was 23 miles per gallon.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes ventilated front discs, solid discs in the rear with four-wheel antilock protection; side and head air bags. Electronic stability and traction control are optional in a segment—the com-

parable Hyundai Sonata is an example—where rivals are offering those items as standard equipment.

PRICE

Base price on the tested 2009, front-wheel-drive Chrysler Sebring Touring sedan with four cylinders is \$21,810. Dealer’s invoice price on that model is \$20,174. Price as tested is \$24,595, including \$2,045 in options (air conditioning; power seats, windows and side-view mirrors, remote vehicle starting, electronic stability control and special “inferno red clearcoat” exterior paint) and a \$740 destination charge. Dealer’s price as tested is \$22,775. There are at least \$1,000 in consumer rebates on this one. Many Chrysler dealers are offering additional incentives. Prices are sourced from Chrysler, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

This is a good car swamped by better competitors, some of which include the Chevrolet Malibu, Ford Fusion, Honda Accord, Hyundai Sonata, Nissan Altima and Toyota Camry.

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

General Motors should stop trying to please everybody. It’s a strategy that embraces the lowest common denominator. It’s hard to make a favorable impression when your primary objective is to avoid offending as many people as possible. You wind up pleasing no one, or next to no one, or so it seems. You are relegated to second-class status. Or worse, you are forgotten.

That much became clear to me after a week in the 2009 Chevrolet Cobalt SS coupe, a member of a car line often overlooked or treated as pedestrian fare by the automotive media.

I did a little experiment. I called Chevrolet and asked if I could “have a look at the Cobalt.” I deliberately did not specify a model—LS, LT, SS, coupe or sedan. My reasoning was that only one of those Cobalt models, the SS coupe, was strong enough, different enough to engage my interest for a week.

As I suspected it would do, without any prompting from me, Chevrolet shipped the fully loaded Cobalt SS coupe.

That told me that the Cobalt SS was the car that Chevrolet

2009 CHEVROLET COBALT SS COUPE

A cut above the ‘rental car’ Cobalt

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN
THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

I could have done without the optional high, rear-deck spoiler on the test car, an appendage of little practical value and even less stylistic grace.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

The Cobalt SS competes nicely with the Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra and Toyota Corolla in all three categories. The lesser Cobalts don’t.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

Cute for what it is, a compact economy car.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Cobalt is a compact, front-engine, front-wheel-drive economy car available as the tested SS coupe or several iterations of a less impressive sedan.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The Cobalt SS comes with a 2-liter, 16-valve, turbocharged, inline four-cylinder engine that develops 260 horsepower at 5,300 revolutions per minute and 260 foot-pounds of torque at 2,000 rpm. The engine is mated to a five-speed manual transmission.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Rear quarters are tight. Luggage capacity is 13.9 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 13 gallons of recommended premium unleaded gasoline. That’s “recommended for best performance.”

MILEAGE

You get 22 miles per gallon in the city and 30 miles per gallon on the highway.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes head air bags, electronic stability and traction control, and front and rear ventilated disc brakes

with antilock protection. Also included is a free introductory subscription to GM’s OnStar emergency communications system. Check with your dealer for details.

PRICE

The base price is \$23,425. Dealer’s invoice price on that model is \$22,137. Price as tested is \$24,995, including \$900 in options (\$750 for power-operated glass roof and \$150 for that ugly rear-deck spoiler) and \$670 destination charge. Dealer’s price as tested is \$23,599. This one comes with \$3,000 in consumer rebates. Prices are sourced from Chevrolet, Edmunds.com, and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The Cobalt SS is the real Chevrolet Cobalt. Otherwise, look at the Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra or Toyota Corolla.

which are no longer affordable.

Interior materials are barely par, certainly no longer competitive, with those now used in General Motors, Ford, Nissan or Toyota cars. And I’m talking

plastics here. The feel and look of some plastics are discernibly better and more appealing than others. In the base Sebring Touring, employed materials are one step beyond cheap.

regarded as the real Cobalt, the one the company regarded as the most representative of that compact economy car line. That being the case, I wondered why the company wasted so much time, money and marketing muscle pushing lesser Cobalts—disparagingly regarded as “rental cars” by the automotive media.

No one regards the comparable Honda Civic, Hyundai Elantra, or Toyota Corolla as a “rental car,” although all of those models can be found on somebody’s rental car lot. A Civic is a Civic. An Elantra is an Elantra. A Corolla is a Corolla. All are compact economy cars with good road manners and excellent quality. Their reputations are so strong, their names speak for themselves.

That’s not so with the Cobalt, the fifth best-selling compact car in America. Why is that?

I suspect it’s because of GM’s dedication to the lowest common denominator—the company’s tendency to take a good idea, such as the Cobalt, and dilute it as much as possible in pursuit of maximum affordability.

The end result is a line of cheap, forgettable cars. That’s too bad because as demonstrated by the tested SS, the Cobalt is

so much better than that.

And I can’t help but think that the Cobalt would be even better had GM not squandered money and reputation spreading the car’s value over a broad field of less-than-impressive materials and mediocre performance in pursuit of more sales.

GM needs to abandon that practice, even if it means losing aggregate sales. It should consider trading volume for memorability, which could lead to an increase in higher quality sales—cars and trucks sought by consumers more for likeability than price.

I was amazed by the number of people who were amazed by the Chevrolet Cobalt I showed them. The car had a snazzy but comfortable interior. Its five-speed manual shifter fell easily to hand. Clutch and gear movement were smooth, predictable. And with its 2-liter, turbocharged, inline four-cylinder engine capable of developing 260 horsepower, the Cobalt SS was downright zippy.

I spoke with several people who had encountered lesser Cobalts in rental fleets. To a person, they said they were disappointed and would never have considered buying a Cobalt, or anything else from Chevrolet, based on that experience.

Life & Style

Hyatt presents Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous on April 2

Promotion features Kendall-Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef

On Thursday, April 2, Kendall-Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef will hold the 2nd Annual Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous cocktail event at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's premier dinner venue, Giovanni's Restaurant, from 6:30pm to 9pm.

This special cocktail event will feature an array of international culinary masterpieces prepared by Chef Colombo and his team, made from the highest-quality Certified Angus Beef and paired with the finest red wines from Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve.

Guests at the event will be treated to an elegant and sumptuous spread that will include tender Flank Steak with Enoki Mushrooms from Japan, Italian Risotto with Barolo Braised Beef, and local favorites like Beefsteak and Ribeye with Spiced Gravy.

The Roasts, Reds and Rendezvous cocktail event at Giovanni's kicks off a month-long promotion at all the dining venues in the Hyatt Regency Saipan. From April 3 to May 10 the Kili Café & Terrace will feature Certified Angus Beef on its Live Stations on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Sundays.

Also from April 3 to May 10, Giovanni's will be serving juicy Certified Angus Beef Sirloin, T-Bone and Ribeye steaks in a variety of mouthwatering *a la carte* specialties, each paired with a full-bodied Kendall-Jackson Vintner's Reserve red wine.

From April 13 to May 10 the Hyatt's Teppanyaki will present an exceptionally tasty set menu prepared by Chef Joe. The menu will include Certified

CONTACT INFO

To RSVP or for more information, call 234-1234 ext. 26

Angus Beef Porterhouse T-Bone Steak with Honey Teriyaki Balsamic Sauce.

The 2nd Annual Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous will be held at Giovanni's Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency Saipan on Thursday, April 2, from 6:30pm until 9pm. The event fee is \$35 (\$30 for Club at the Hyatt members).

Food and Beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale encourages all who are interested in attending to contact the Hyatt Regency Saipan in advance. There will be no reserved seating; however, it is advisable to make an advanced booking, as space is very limited. To RSVP or for more infor-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kendall-Jackson Wines and Certified Angus Beef will hold the 2nd Annual Roasts, Reds & Rendezvous cocktail event at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Giovanni's Restaurant on April 2, from 6:30pm to 9pm.

mation, call 234-1234 ext. 26.

About Kendall-Jackson Wines

Kendall-Jackson is renowned for its selection and blending of fruit from the state's best vineyards to create wines of consis-

tently high quality and intense flavor from vintage to vintage.

Kendall-Jackson has won top medal honors for more than a dozen varietal wines, a clear indication of consistently superior quality no matter the vintage or varietal. In 2007,

Kendall-Jackson won its ninth "Winery of the Year Award" from Wine & Spirits Magazine, and in 2008, was named "Winery of the Year" for the second year in a row at the San Francisco International Wine Competition, the largest of its kind in America.

Kendall-Jackson wines are exclusively distributed in the CNMI by Pacific Trading Company, LTD.

About Certified Angus Beef

A bad steak started it all. Angus producer Harold Etling of Marshallville, Ohio was less than satisfied when he tasted a steak—billed as "Angus beef"—at a local restaurant. He conferred with Fred Johnson, an Angus producer in Summitville, Ohio and member of the American Angus Association board of directors. The two visionaries discussed the creation of an association-backed license for retailers and restaurants to market premium Angus beef.

The goal was to increase demand for registered Angus cattle through a specification-based, branded-beef program that identifies consistent, high-quality beef with superior taste.

Founded in 1978 by Angus cattle producers, the Certified Angus Beef brand is the only brand owned by the American Angus Association and its 35,000 rancher members.

Today, Certified Angus Beef LLC is a non-profit subsidiary of the American Angus Association. The company owns the Certified Angus Beef trademarks and licenses companies to identify and promote beef that meets the brand's strict quality standards.

The Certified Angus Beef brand is the largest, most successful brand of beef and is a symbol of excellence to consumers at more than 12,500 businesses in 39 countries. More than 1.6 million pounds are sold daily through foodservice and grocery channels, generating an estimated \$2.5 billion in consumer sales annually.

Governed by a board of Angus cattle breeders, CAB employs nearly 100 staff members who provide unparalleled marketing support to the company's business partners.

The Certified Angus Beef brand is exclusively distributed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by Triple J Five Star Wholesale Foods. (PR)

Former treasury secretary writing about meltdown

NEW YORK (AP)—A book coming this fall will offer one of the ultimate inside takes on the economic crisis—from former Secretary of the Treasury Henry M. Paulson, Jr.

"I didn't come to Washington thinking I was going to leave and write a book, but this period was so significant and there are so many insights and so many lessons learned that I think an understanding of this extraordinary period is important," Paulson told The Associated Press during a telephone interview Wednesday from his office at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, in Washington.

The book, currently untitled, will be released in October by Business Plus, an imprint of Grand Central Publishing and the Hachette Book Group (USA). Paulson, a former chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, is not writing for money. He is taking no advance and will donate all profits to the nonprofit Homeownership Preservation Foundation, which helps families in danger of foreclosure.

"This is a great organization and I work extensively with them, and I worked extensively with them when I was in Treasury," says Paulson, who served in the Bush administration from 2006-09.

The deal was negotiated by Washington attorney Robert Barnett, whose many clients include President Obama and former President George W. Bush. As Barnett did when working on Bush's memoir, to be released in 2010 by the Crown Publishing Group, he did not solicit competing bids for Paulson's book, but worked exclu-

sively with Grand Central.

"We wanted to move quickly and with a minimum of fanfare," says Barnett, who added that he had been impressed with Business Plus, which has published such best sellers as Jack Welch's "Jack: Straight From the Gut" and "Rich Dad, Poor Dad," by Robert Kiyosaki and Sharon L. Lechter.

According to a statement issued Wednesday by Business Plus, the book will "include Paulson's personal recollections of key moments and decisions" and "will also include his insights on what has happened since he left office."

Jamie Raab, executive vice president and publisher of Grand Central, said she was immediately impressed by Paulson and by his description of the book. Noting that the project "is not about making money for him," she added, with a laugh, "I can't say that for us."

Paulson, who turns 63 on Saturday, said he presented Business Plus with a five-to-six-page proposal and said that "as much as I like to write, I have never written a book before, so I'm going to get a collaborator to help pull all this together."



Paulson

Few treasury secretaries have such a story to tell; Paulson led the government's efforts to confront the economic collapse last fall. Among his initiatives—some highly criticized—were the \$700 billion bailout plan for financial institutions and the government takeover of the country's two biggest mortgage companies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and its biggest insurance company, American International Group Inc.

Another historic decision: not to rescue the nation's fourth-largest investment bank, Lehman Brothers, which last fall declared bankruptcy, an

event many believe helped cause the financial meltdown.

Raab said she did not "get the sense at all" that Paulson would second-guess any of his own choices. Paulson said that while he believes "very strongly" that "the major decisions were right," he also feels there is "no doubt that some things could have been done better."

"I hope some of the lessons I've learned will help others," he said.

Paulson said that he has read books by former Federal Reserve Board chair Alan Greenspan and by Robert Rubin, treasury secretary under President Clinton. But he says his book will be different, if only because his time in Washington was so different.

"I will clearly want to have something to say about where I see markets developing and where I think policies should go, so I may have some things to say about what's happened since I left office," he said. "But my focus is my recollection of the events that I was at the center of."

Madonna, in Malawi, refuses to talk about adoption

CHINKHOTA, Malawi (AP)—Madonna dashed from the airport to an impoverished Malawi village to discuss a school she is planning to build, saying nothing to the hordes of reporters on her trail Sunday about whether she is planning to start the process of adopting a second Malawian child.

The singer, casually dressed in a white fedora, walked in Chinkhota, a village near the capital of this AIDS- and poverty-stricken southern African country, holding the hand of her 12-year-old daughter, Lourdes. Dozens of reporters looked on.

The 50-year-old Madonna refused to answer questions about reports that she was in Malawi to adopt a 4-year-old girl. She said it was “amazing” to be back in the country where she runs a charity organization and from where she adopted her son David, 3, last year.

Then she rushed away in a convoy of at least three sport utility vehicles, as crowds of shouting, waving children ran after her.

Madonna was expected to appear Monday in court in Lilongwe, the capital, to sign adoption papers.

A security guard with the convoy said Madonna spoke to villagers about building a school, and she was seen looking at an

artist's impression of the proposed building.

Madonna first traveled to Malawi in 2006 while doing charity work and filming a documentary on the devastating poverty and AIDS crisis here. Her Raising Malawi organization, founded in 2006, raises funds to fight poverty by providing food, shelter, education and health care for children here.

The U.N. estimates that half of the 1 million Malawian children with one or no parents was orphaned by AIDS, and that the virus that causes AIDS has infected 14 percent of adults here. Of the population of 13 million, 65 percent live below the poverty line, and most of those living in poverty are women. Madonna plans a special school for girls to increase opportunities for girls and young women in Malawi.

It was not clear if the school she discussed Sunday was her proposed Raising Malawi Academy for Girls.

A Malawian welfare official and another person involved in the adoption proceedings have said the girl Madonna is hoping to adopt is about 4 years old and her unmarried mother died soon after she was born. The girl's father is believed to be alive but no other details were available. They spoke on condition of ano-



U.S. pop star Madonna and her daughter Lourdes shake hands with residents in the village of Magwelo on the outskirts of Lilongwe, Malawi, Sunday March 29, 2009.

nymity because the case is considered sensitive.

A U.S. government official has also confirmed that an adoption bid by Madonna, an American citizen, is under way.

ing an 18- to 24-month assessment period before adoption.

But locals were not so condemning.

Wilson Kalibwanji, a resident of Chinkhota, said he would willingly place his own son in her care to ensure the boy a better life.

“We are poor people,” he said Sunday. “If a child's mother dies, it is hard for the man to bring the child up.”

Austin Msowoya, legal researcher with Malawi's Law Commission, played down concerns that a second adoption by Madonna would violate any laws. He said the best interests of the child would be taken into account—whether that was staying in an orphanage in Malawi or getting “an education with Madonna.”

“When you look at these two options, then perhaps it becomes in the best interests of the child to allow the adoption if the parents and the guardians consent to it,” he told Associated Press Television News on Saturday.

But Save the Children UK said the recently divorced superstar risked sending the wrong message by going through with the second adoption.

“International adoption can actually exacerbate the problem it hopes to solve,” spokesman Dominic Nutt said Saturday. “The very existence of orphan-

ages encourages poor parents to abandon children in the hope that they will have a better life.”

Nutt said he was not suggesting that Madonna was doing anything wrong—but he said the whole process of international adoptions was often flawed and sometimes linked to criminal activity.

He said, barring exceptional circumstances, children should be kept in the care of their extended families or within their communities.

Madonna's spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg in New York, who has not commented on the adoption reports, told The Associated Press the star would not respond to comments from Save the Children.

Madonna told Malawi's The Nation newspaper that she was considering another adoption but would only do it if she had “the support of the Malawian people and government.”

If the adoption goes through, Madonna would become a single mother of four. She also has an 8-year-old son, Rocco, with former husband and British film director Guy Ritchie and her daughter Lourdes from a previous relationship.

She and Ritchie, who were married in 2000, obtained a preliminary divorce decree in November 2008.

Japanese enka star performs at DC festival

WASHINGTON (AP)—As a boy, Jerome White Jr. often spent weekends at his grandparents' house, where a melodramatic genre of Japanese music called enka would waft in the background.

White's Japanese grandmother, Takiko, had met his grandfather, an African-American serviceman, at a dance during World War II. And it was in their Pittsburgh living room that the 6-year-old and his grandma sang the postwar songs of love, loss and hardship. Even though he didn't understand the enka lyrics at the time, his Japanese singing pleased his grandmother, who died in 2005.

“I loved her very much,” says White, now 27. “It just made me want to learn more songs and practice more.”

Enka had an unwavering hook on White, and it has made him a superstar in Japan, where he's known as Jero. Named best new artist last year by Japan Record Awards—the Japanese version of the Grammys—White made his first major U.S. appearance Saturday during the opening ceremony of the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington before a diverse audience of several hundred. They cheered, waved and some even held up signs bearing his name.

Minoru Furuyama sat in the front row with his wife, their 18-year-old daughter and a friend. Furuyama says they came solely to see White's performance.

“He's got a beautiful voice,” says the 55-year-old from Rockville, Md. “He's got the empathy or the soul for enka.”

Furuyama grew up listening to enka and says the ballads of unrequited love and heartache are a “very universal kind of message.”

White has helped reintroduce enka—long a favorite of older generations—to the Japanese, breathing new life into its melodies by incorpo-

rating touches of pop or rhythm and blues.

Most striking is his wardrobe. Traditional enka crooners perform in a suit or kimono, but White sings in masterful Japanese while dressed in baggy pants, a do-rag and a cocked-to-the-side baseball cap.

Seeing an African-American artist sing a “kind of perfect way of enka” in hip-hop fashion—“that's totally sort of an amazing contrast to us,” says Hideo Fukushima, public affairs minister at the Embassy of Japan, which invited White to perform at the festival.



White

White said he hopes to make enka more appealing to younger audiences.

“This has been a big part of my life since I was a kid, and I'm fulfilling my dream,” White says. “I'm just hoping everybody can at least feel something from it—even just have even a small ounce of interest in it.”

Singing enka was a constant during White's childhood, though he says he never told his friends because they might have poked fun at him. He picked up some Japanese by listening to his grandmother and mother—who spent her first 13 years in Japan—speak the language. He later studied it in school.

White first visited Japan at age 15, to take part in a speech contest. At 20, he returned for three months as an exchange student while he studied information science at the University of Pittsburgh.

“At the time, I was into hip-hop and all about improving my Japanese and still singing enka,” says the soft-spoken White. “I just thought, enka, Japanese, dance and my love for computers and information science; all of that can be found in Japan. I just thought, I just have to come back.” After graduation in 2003 he went back—to live.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Remedio Sato Taitano

Better known as “Maria Agaga”
Born to Life on October 27, 1947,
she was called by her Creator
on March 27, 2009.

She is joined now:

Father: Policarpio Quitano Taitano
Mother: Consolacion Sato Taitano
Brothers: Jose S. Taitano
Juan S. Taitano
Crispin S. Taitano

Brother-in-law: Rafael Tereyama
Godparents (Baptism): Marian & Jose S. Sato
Godmother (Confirmation): Eugenia Castro

Survived by:

Common law-Husband: Antonio R. Camacho
(Tantone) and Family

Children, In-laws and Grandchildren:

Suzette & Felix T. Sasamoto Jr. (Sventlana) Gregorio T. Sasamoto (Greg, Devin, Latara Monique, Latanie Marie & Maxima Lynn)
Lucy Jane S. and Ronald Arreola (Nico-Nathaniel)
Crispin T. Sasamoto
Tina Maria S. & Herman palacios Jr. (Jason, John Jr., Waynelynn, Mercedes AnnMarie, Jesse Wayne, Lad and Maria Remedio)
Gina Lynn S. and Darrell Williams (Kazel, Shane & Alana Marie)
Trini Ann B. & Nathan John T. Sasamoto (Lynnae Jaeline, Leonard John, Nathan Justin, Narinany Faith & Clayton John)
Corina and
Michael T. Sasamoto (Chael, Ajah, Lexus and Mikah)
Billy Joe T. Sasamoto

Brother, Sisters and In-Laws:

Pang and Jesus S. Taitano & children
Susana T. Tereyama & children
Rosa S. Taitano & children
Dolores T. and Danny Catigan
Trinidad T. and Russel Demola & children
Teresa T. and Roman Sagpao & children

Special Caretaker: Renandra Dizon and Sandra T. Dela Cruz

Nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00 p.m. at the Hospital Chapel.

Viewing and last respects begins at 8:00 a.m. at Hospital Chapel.
Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at CHC Chapel followed by interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

'Monsters vs. Aliens' battles to \$58.2M debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Movie beasts from old-time Hollywood got a makeover as heroes and conquered the weekend box office.

DreamWorks Animation's action comedy "Monsters vs. Aliens," which features creatures from 1950s flicks in a showdown with invading extraterrestrials, launched itself into the No. 1 spot with a \$58.2 million debut, according to studio estimates Sunday.

It was the biggest debut so far in 2009, topping the \$55.2 million first weekend of "Watchmen" in early March.

Opening in second place was Lionsgate's ghost story "The Haunting in Connecticut" with \$23 million in ticket sales.

The previous weekend's top movie, Summit Entertainment's apocalyptic thriller "Knowing,"

1. "Monsters vs. Aliens," \$58.2 million.
2. "The Haunting in Connecticut," \$23 million.
3. "Knowing," \$14.7 million.
4. "I Love You, Man," \$12.6 million.
5. "Duplicity," \$7.6 million.
6. "Race to Witch Mountain," \$5.6 million.
7. "12 Rounds," \$5.3 million.
8. "Watchmen," \$2.755 million.
9. "Taken," \$2.75 million.
10. "The Last House on the Left," \$2.6 million.

slipped to third with \$14.7 million, raising its 10-day total to \$46.2 million.

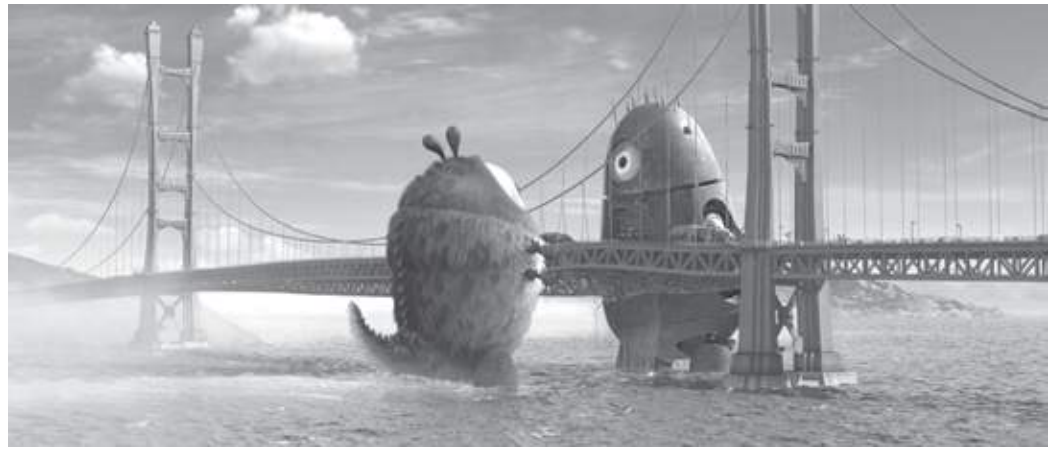
The big opening for "Monsters vs. Aliens" boosted Hollywood revenues after a couple of down weekends. Movies

overall pulled in about \$148 million, up 39 percent from the same weekend a year ago, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

For the year, revenues have reached \$2.38 billion, up 12 percent from 2008's, according to Media By Numbers. Accounting for this year's higher ticket prices, movie attendance is up 10.4 percent.

Hollywood historically weathers recessions well given the relative low cost of movies compared with other entertainment such as concerts or sports events. But the declining revenues of the previous two weekends showed that audiences will not run out to just any old flick, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

"The recession offers a framework from which movies can do



AP

Undated film still of the movie 'Monsters vs. Aliens'.

well for people looking to escape," Dergarabedian said. "But they have to want to escape to these movies. The appeal has to be there, and it clearly was for 'Monsters vs. Aliens.'"

Reese Witherspoon leads the cast of "Monsters vs. Aliens," providing vocals for a woman who grows to nearly 50 feet after an encounter with a meteor. The voice cast also includes Seth Rogen, Kiefer Sutherland, Hugh Laurie, Will Arnett and Stephen Colbert.

"Monsters vs. Aliens" was the latest success story for digital 3-D projection. While the 2,080 3-D screens accounted for just 28 percent of the roughly 7,300

on which the movie played, they made up 56 percent of its total box-office haul, said Anne Globe, head of marketing for DreamWorks Animation.

Tickets for 3-D movies typically cost a few dollars more than the 2-D version.

"Audiences donned 3-D glasses in the biggest way ever," Globe said. "Monsters vs. Aliens' serves as valuable proof of concept for the next generation of 3-D."

The company plans to offer 3-D versions of all of its future animated films, including next year's "How to Train Your Dragon" and "Shrek Goes Fourth," the third sequel to the

blockbuster ogre franchise.

Other upcoming 3-D releases this year include Pixar Animation's "Up" and James Cameron's sci-fi adventure "Avatar."

Large-screen IMAX theaters showing "Monsters vs. Aliens" in 3-D accounted for \$5.2 million of the movie's overall grosses. Those 143 IMAX theaters represented only about 2 percent of the screens on which the movie played but contributed 9 percent of its total box office.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Media By Numbers LLC. Final figures will be released Monday.

'Cupid' gets a second chance on ABC

NEW YORK (AP)—Love sometimes get second chances, but failed TV series rarely do. "Cupid" has become one of those rare exceptions.

ABC is resurrecting the romantic comedy that lasted 14 episodes on its schedule in 1998-99. It premieres Tuesday in a plum 10 p.m. time slot following the network's biggest hit, "Dancing With the Stars."

Yet it's not the same series that its fans may fondly remember, and not only because original stars Jeremy Piven and Paula Marshall are not available this time.

ABC had been kicking around ideas with Rob Thomas, the original series creator who had gone on to other projects like "Veronica Mars." The network executives said they were thinking about something like "Cupid," when the light bulb went on over their heads: Why not just do "Cupid" again?

This sort of remake is something of a taboo, even for an industry where series fail much more often than they succeed, frequently for reasons that have little to do with their quality.

"A lot of people feel like there must be some sort of stigma attached," said Kim Rozenfeld, ABC's senior vice president of current programming. "If you tried and didn't succeed, you shouldn't touch it again."

There was plenty of affection for "Cupid" within ABC a decade ago, he said. But it was a time the network lacked focus and was groping for an identity. ABC may not explicitly say so, but it's now a network that targets female viewers and hopes



AP

In this image released by ABC, Bobby Cannavale portrays Trevor Pierce in the series "Cupid," premiering Tuesday, March 31, 2009 at 10 p.m. EDT.

they bring their boyfriends or husbands along. A story involving a man who envisions himself as a modern-day Cupid despite others thinking he's insane fits the mission perfectly.

Thomas believes the initial series failed because of scheduling. It was first aired Saturdays at 10 p.m., precisely when the young singles who might be attracted to the story are likely out doing something else.

He pleaded for something better, and finally it was moved to a weeknight—Thursday, at a time NBC's "must-see TV" had a stranglehold on viewers.

"We got demolished," he said.

The first "Cupid" exists only in memories, never getting a DVD release even though it was Piven's first starring TV role before later achieving fame on "Entourage." Thomas had to hunt down a DVD copy of the series

in Mexico; the only one he owns now has Spanish subtitles.

"The nice thing about the experience is that ABC treated us very well 10 years ago, aside from canceling it and scheduling it very badly," he said. "The creative arm of the network, the people I dealt with on a regular basis, loved the show and were very enthusiastic and respectful about it."

The new version stars Bobby Cannavale of "Will & Grace" as Trevor Pierce, who believes he's the Roman god of love and claims he's been sent to New York to bring 100 couples together before he can return to Mount Olympus. His foil is psychiatrist and self-help author Claire McCrae, played by Sarah Paulson. She believes there's a science to love, while Pierce believes in magic.

Besides the new cast, Thomas said "Cupid" 2.0 has, at ABC's insistence, a greater emphasis on the couple Pierce and McCrae are trying to bring together each episode. His original model was a series like "Moonlighting," where each week's detective case was secondary to the relationship between the two lead characters.

The first series "would have three-and-a-half page scenes of Trevor and Claire bickering," Thomas said. "Now you never have that. I think there's a belief that people don't have the patience for that. I'm not sure I subscribe to that belief."

Rozenfeld said he disagreed with a conclusion that the series now emphasizes the romance of the week instead of the lead characters. "I think there is equal focus," he said.

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NOW SHOWING



Monsters vs. Aliens

Friday 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:00
 Mon and Tues 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie
 Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

Synopsis

When a space capsule crash lands onto Susan Reynold's car she's doused by its alien liquid contents, Quantonium which turn her into a 48 foot 11 inch giant. Her wedding thwarted, she's captured by the military and sent to a secret government facility, where she meets fellow monsters Dr. Cockroach, Ph.D., the gelatinous BOB, The Missing Link, and Insectosaurus.



The Haunting in Connecticut

Friday 4:20 7:25 9:45
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:25 9:45
 Sunday 1:20 4:15 7:25
 Mon and Tues 4:20 7:25

Virginia Madsen, Brooklyn Proulx
 Thriller, Supernatural • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

Based on a true story of one family's terrifying, real-life encounter with the dark forces of the supernatural. When the Campbell family moves to upstate Connecticut, they soon learn that their charming Victorian home has a disturbing history. Not only was the house a transformed funeral parlor where inconceivable acts occurred, but the owner's clairvoyant son Jonah served as a demonic messenger, providing a gateway for spiritual entities to crossover.



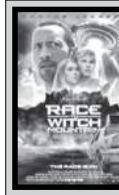
Knowing

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:30
 Saturday 1:15 4:10 7:10 9:30
 Sunday 1:15 4:10 7:10
 Mon and Tues 4:10 7:10

Nicolas Cage, Rose Byrne
 Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

In 1958, as part of the dedication ceremony for a new elementary school, a group of students is asked to draw pictures to be stored in a time capsule. But one mysterious girl fills her sheet of paper with rows of apparently random numbers instead. Fifty years later, a new generation of students examines the capsule's contents and the girl's cryptic message ends up in the hands of young Caleb Koestler.



Race To Witch Mountain

Friday 4:15 7:30 9:40
 Saturday 1:10 4:15 7:30 9:40
 Sunday 1:10 4:15 7:30
 Mon and Tues 4:15 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Ciarán Hinds
 Action, Adventure • Rated PG



When I Met You

Friday 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50
 Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
 Mon and Tues 4:25 7:20

KC Concepcion, Richard Gutierrez
 Romance, Drama • Rated NR



The Last House On The Left

Friday 4:30 7:15 9:55
 Saturday 1:25 4:30 7:15 9:55
 Sunday 1:25 4:30 7:15
 Mon and Tues 4:30 7:15

Garret Dillahunt, Rhys Corio
 Horror • Rated R



Watchmen

Friday 4:00 7:05 10:15
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:05 10:15
 Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:05
 Mon and Tues 4:00 7:05

Malin Akerman, Billy Crudup
 Action, Adventure • Rated R

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Chris Brown, Rihanna were no-shows at Kids' Choice

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown and Rihanna, who added star power to last year's Kids' Choice Awards, were conspicuously absent at the annual event on Saturday.

Brown, who was nominated for favorite male singer and

Charge dropped against R&B singer Wayna



In this Feb. 8, 2009 file photo, Wayna arrives at the 51st Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

HOUSTON (AP)—A judge has dismissed a charge against Grammy-nominated singer Wayna after she was arrested at a Houston airport for trying to bring a collapsible police baton through security.

Wayna was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon Wednesday. The third-degree felony was dropped Friday. Wayna, who attended the hearing with an attorney, uses the baton as a prop while performing.

Houston police said Thursday that security guards at Bush International Airport discovered the 24-inch baton in her carry-on bag.

Wayna released her second album, "Higher Ground," in 2008. One song on the album is "Billy Club," a ballad about police abuse. She twirls and points the baton when performing it live.

Wayna thanked prosecutors for not pursuing the incident further.

"The senior prosecutor recognized the case for what it was: an honest mistake that did not rise to the level of a criminal offense," Wayna said in a statement. "Based on the facts, that was undoubtedly the correct decision, and we are thankful for that decision."

Wayna said she forgot the baton was in the carry-on bag, along with CDs, makeup and "other materials she carries to performances."

"Obviously, the past 48 hours have been life-altering," she said. "I'm incredibly relieved and grateful that it's over and that justice prevailed."

Wayna's song "Lovin' You" was nominated this year for a Grammy for best urban/alternative performance.



Rapper Soulja Boy is interviewed in New York, in this Monday Dec. 15, 2008 file photo.

favorite song for "Kiss Kiss," withdrew his name from Kids' Choice contention after he was arrested Feb. 8 for allegedly attacking his girlfriend, Rihanna,

a fellow Kids' Choice nominee for favorite female singer and favorite song for "Don't Stop the Music," was also a no-show. "For them not to be here is

very sad. I was looking forward to seeing them here," rapper Soulja Boy, who is a friend of the pop stars, said from the orange carpet.

"Right now, it's a sad situation. And it's very touchy. I'm just it just shocked me when it happened," he added.

Soulja Boy said he's spoken with Brown over the phone and that the 19-year-old R&B singer is "doing OK."

"Yeah, right now, it's a delicate time," he added. "You know, the court date is coming up. I hope that they both get through it in a positive way."

Brown, who has been charged by Los Angeles prosecutors with felony assault and making criminal threats, is scheduled to be arraigned April 6.

Blogger Perez Hilton throws star-studded party

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—For someone who mocks celebrities on his popular blog, Perez Hilton sure has a lot of famous friends.

Christina Aguilera, the Jonas Brothers, Paris Hilton and Kim Kardashian were among some 200 well-wishers who attended the gossip king's 31st birthday party Saturday night.

"I'm not thrilled with the number 31," Hilton, whose real name is Mario Lavandeira, said on the pink carpet in front of the Viper Room nightclub. "But I am super excited that, right now, I'm happier in my life than I ever have been before."

Hilton bragged that the first gift he received was from "High School Musical" heartthrob Zac Efron.

"He sent me a bottle of cham-



Singer Christina Aguilera, third from left, and Perez Hilton, third from right, pose with backup dancers at Perez Hilton's 31st Birthday Party in West Hollywood, Calif. on Saturday, March 28, 2009.

pagne to my hotel room, which made me squeal like a little school girl," he gushed.

The Jonas Brothers, who dashed from the Kids' Choice Awards to sing "Happy Birthday" to Hilton, gave him an au-

tographed guitar.

Aguilera belted her version of Marilyn Monroe's sultry birthday serenade to President John F. Kennedy

"Happy birthday, Mr. Perez-ident," she cooed.

Topless revue closes on Vegas Strip after 49 years

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The topless revue "Les Folies Bergeres" has hung up its feathers after 49 years at the Tropicana hotel-casino.

Many performers who had taken part in the show's 29,000 runs since Christmas of 1959 crowded the set after its final curtain on Saturday.

Jerry Jackson, the show's choreographer and director since 1975, thanked "the thousands of performers who have entertained millions of people" in remarks to the audience before the show.

The closing leaves Bally's "Jubilee!" as the last full-scale showgirl revue left on the Las Vegas Strip.

The performance and reunion included dancers and specialists who graced the stage throughout the show's run.

It was "like a big family," said Daniel Celario, a comedian who performed in the show with his brother on and off from 1986 to 2000. "It was like going to work at the office with a lot of people you like."

Celario married a dancer who

is now the entertainment director for the casino.

"There's something about this show," Celario said. "It's the feeling we got backstage, the vibe and adrenalin with all the dancers."

Showgirl productions have

fallen out of favor with Cirque du Soleil dominating entertainment on the Strip in recent years.

"Folies" came from Paris in 1959 and opened under then-Tropicana entertainment director Lou Walters, the father of newswoman Barbara Walters.

Animations win Humane Society Awards

By LEE MARGULIES
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—Two animated productions—the feature film "Bolt" and the Fox TV series "The Simpsons"—have picked up top honors at the 23rd annual Genesis Awards, presented by the Humane Society of the United States to honor media presentations of animal-protection issues.

"Bolt," the story of a pampered, sheltered dog suddenly thrust into the outside world, was cited in part for its depiction of "the sad truth about unwanted and abandoned cats and dogs."

"The Simpsons" won for its episode "Apocalypse Cow,"

which the Humane Society praised for "telling it like it really is about the fate of 4-H club animals and the bleak, inhumane nature of factory farming."

Among other winners announced Saturday were three ABC programs: "Grey's Anatomy," for an episode dealing with the ethics of using live animals in medical research; "20/20," for an episode about elephants in captivity, and "World News Tonight" for reports on animal issues.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show" was honored for shedding light on what the Humane Society described as "the cruelty of puppy mills, dog fighting and factory farming."

Use of corporal punishment sparks passionate debate

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am writing about your response to "John in Savannah" (Feb. 1), the 24-year-old man who is unsure how to explain to people that using a belt to discipline his three little girls is different from abuse.

Sometimes, in order to teach that actions or behaviors are inappropriate, some form of punishment, whether it's a spanking or a time-out, becomes necessary.

I give my children three chances when they misbehave. If they continue, they are punished. They know that there will be consequences if they do wrong. Like John's children, mine are also frequently praised for being courteous and well-behaved.

Small children do not understand long-term punishment like grounding, taking away toys, etc. By the time the duration of that kind of discipline has passed, the child has forgotten the reason for it. For young children to understand the consequences of wrong behavior, the measures must be swift and short-term.

John should answer those who ask by saying he uses "consistent discipline accompanied by corporal punishment when necessary." If more parents did the same as John and me, we'd have fewer behavior problems in schools.

MOM IN CONTROL IN GAINESVILLE

DEAR MOM IN CONTROL: Thank you for commenting. However, I stand by my position that there are more effective ways to discipline a child than by using physical punishment. After printing "John in Savannah's" letter, I was flooded with mail from parents and adult children across the country. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: Are John's children obeying because they are making good choices or because they are afraid of the belt? Also, does he realize how badly he is hurting his children, both physically and emotionally? When you strike someone with an object, you have no idea how hard you are really hitting. Also, the humiliation of being beaten could last those kids a lifetime.

Honestly, it takes more effort to come up with corrections other than spanking, but it is well worth it. We post our family rules and their consequences in plain view. Part of my son's allowance depends upon making good choices at home and at school. And yes—it does work. My son just brought home his report card with excellent marks for conduct.

POSITIVELY REINFORCING IN MICHIGAN

DEAR ABBY: I think a little "old-fashioned discipline" is in order. I am a preschool teacher, and I am appalled at what the 2- and 3-year-olds do and say. Swearing, hitting and disrespect are only a sampling of the things that have made my jaw drop. Time-outs, revocations of privileges and "talks" are laughed at, and the bad behavior is not curbed.

Parents allow their children to get away with things my mom would have screamed at me for, and we teachers get the fallout. My experiences as a baby sitter for older kids were much the same. Should we be "nice" to our children so they can grow up without boundaries? I think not.

SACRAMENTO EDUCATOR

DEAR ABBY: My father used a leather slipper on me instead of a belt. He also used his hand and his impressive vocabulary to keep me in line. Was I afraid of him? Absolutely! Did I love him? I am still not sure. I grew up to be a woman who is afraid of men, afraid of making a mistake, afraid to share myself and my ideas, and generally timid about life.

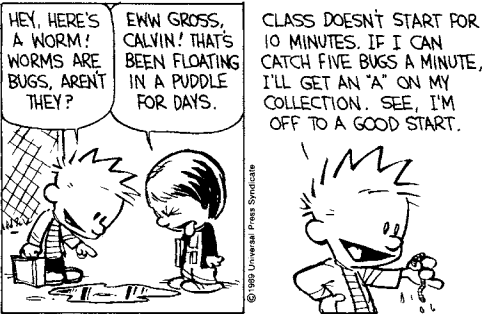
John's daughters are learning that the way men in their lives show love is to beat them. He is setting his girls up to marry an abuser because they think abuse is normal behavior. I hope John realizes soon that fear and love cannot share the same space in a child's heart.

SURVIVOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



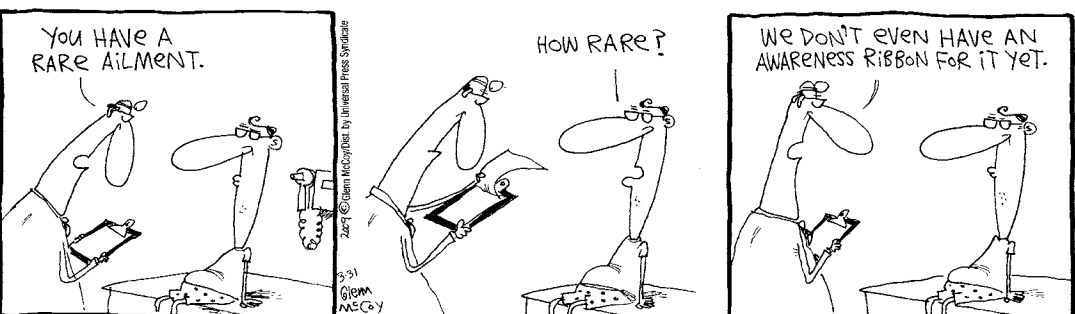
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The Duplex



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Little Women" woman
 - 5 Timid
 - 8 Lean-to
 - 12 Operatic solo
 - 13 Meadow
 - 14 Troubadour's instrument
 - 15 Avon product
 - 17 Chills and fever
 - 18 Type units
 - 19 "A mouse!"
 - 20 Garden intruder
 - 21 Automobile
 - 22 Billboards
 - 23 Future juniors
 - 26 Police record book
 - 30 Neighborhood
 - 31 Seek damages
 - 32 Corn Belt state
 - 33 Henson's troupe
 - 35 Piece of hardware
 - 36 Firmament
 - 37 Stir-fry vessel
- DOWN**
- 1 Batman portrayer
 - 2 Ms. Brockovich
 - 3 Gratuities
 - 4 Owns
 - 5 More cunning
 - 6 Kin of "dam"
 - 7 Tibetan beast
 - 8 Three Stooges specialty
 - 9 Laurie or Grant
 - 10 Needle case
 - 11 Homeowner's paper
 - 16 Afternoon affairs
 - 20 Big bother
 - 21 Blistex rival
 - 22 Hearty quaff
 - 23 "Casa-blanca" pianist
 - 24 Tulsa sch.
 - 25 Energy
 - 26 Clear the tables
 - 27 Anderson's "High —"
 - 28 Ram's partner
 - 29 Uncivilized
 - 31 Pigs' digs
 - 34 — out a living
 - 35 Lays down the lawn
 - 37 Uses a paper towel
 - 38 Passel
 - 39 Sulk
 - 40 Garfield's pal
 - 41 Ready for the picking
 - 42 Lass
 - 43 Dermatologist's concern
 - 44 Distort
 - 46 Rotation duration
 - 47 Bill

Solution time: 21 mins.

E	R	A	E	B	B	M	E	M	O
D	O	R	M	A	L	E	E	L	A
I	D	E	A	T	O	G	E	L	S
T	E	A	K	S	G	I	L	T	
		E	O	S	N	O	T	B	A
M	A	J	E	S	T	I	S	H	A
I	C	O	N	D	E	W	E	A	S
S	H	A	D	I	S	A	M	P	L
S	E	N	S	O	R	N	O	R	
		M	U	O	N	P	E	A	C
A	C	M	E	B	O	G	S	T	O
S	O	R	E	I	D	A	S	O	P
P	O	S	T	N	E	T			

Yesterday's answer 3-31

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19				20		
			21				22			
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31				32		
33				34				35		
			36				37			
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46				47		
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pavel Bure, 38; Ewan McGregor, 38; Rhea Perlman, 61; Christopher Walken, 66

Happy Birthday: You can make some helpful professional changes. This is a fabulous year to get involved in subjects, projects and interests about which you feel passionately. The more you like what you are doing and the people with whom you are engaged, professionally and socially, the better you will do. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 25, 36, 39, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You can make gains financially, vocationally and emotionally. A chance meeting or an intentional contact with someone from your past will lead to an opportunity to make extra cash in your spare time. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Something is going on behind your back so, before you make any earth shattering decisions, find out the truth. Someone may be leading you on. Don't trust anyone offering something too good to be true. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take a look at what happened in the past and you will know exactly how to handle your current situation. If someone gets aggressive, turn away. You'll do better with people you have known a long time so reconnect with someone from your past. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Uncertainty will cloud your day, causing you to second guess everything you do. Your emotions will be erratic and will confuse you. ★★★★★

You must not try to resolve something that needs more time to settle down. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Have some fun and you will entice others to get involved in the activities about which you feel strongly. Love is on the rise and you can turn a relationship that interests you into something substantial. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't play games or you will end up with the short end of the stick. Be ready to say no to anyone trying to bait you. Focus on yourself, your family and your home, not outsiders trying to get a piece of your action. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Stop waiting for someone else to make a move when the spotlight is on you. Love relationships will flourish. Expand your mind, your philosophy and your awareness of other cultures. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't get carried away with trivial matters. You can spin your wheels all you want but that won't help you get ahead. Regardless of the outcome it's how you conduct yourself on the journey. Be strong and follow your instincts. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be drawn to the people who have always been there for you. Love will play an important role in a decision regarding your location and your future. Strive for perfection but don't miss an opportunity because you aren't ready. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't spend if you don't have to and certainly

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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do not hand out cash for someone else's mistake. Be strong when it comes to your personal life. It's better to say no and spare yourself future costs and emotional upset than to get in over your head financially and personally. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make some moves to lift your spirits and bring you greater comfort at home. Form a coalition with someone who has the same background and ambitions as you. Your insight will guide you to make the right decision. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take a second look at your situation and make note of what someone with more experience tells you. Poor decisions will result in a mishap or even injury if you aren't careful. You will be tempted to act in haste—don't cave to the pressure. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are creative, talkative and quick to react. You are open and aggressive and you never lose sight of your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8		2				9		7
	7						1	
6			1	7				5
		1		7		4		
			8		6			
		4		3		6		
3			9		8			6
	2						9	
5		6				8		1

Difficulty Level ★★

3/31

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	3	8	7	4	5	6	2	9
9	4	7	2	6	1	3	5	8
2	5	6	9	3	8	7	1	4
8	7	9	5	2	4	1	6	3
4	1	5	3	7	6	8	9	2
6	2	3	8	1	9	5	4	7
5	9	2	6	8	7	4	3	1
3	8	4	1	5	2	9	7	6
7	6	1	4	9	3	2	8	5

Difficulty Level ★

1/30

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TIMESHARING IS GREAT

Solution: 6 letters

V	A	D	S	L	G	G	E	T	A	W	A	Y	S	L
M	A	I	N	T	E	N	A	N	C	E	T	R	O	A
S	N	C	R	A	Y	A	I	E	T	I	S	O	S	T
E	N	E	A	F	P	L	S	Y	M	D	P	T	L	N
L	O	C	H	T	A	X	E	E	U	M	E	N	A	E
A	I	A	G	C	I	R	E	U	U	B	L	E	E	R
S	T	R	U	O	E	I	N	E	S	V	D	E		
T	A	D	E	S	T	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	E	S
C	M	S	S	E	R	I	K	O	Z	S	T	I	V	O
A	R	P	T	S	M	E	H	E	N	G	M	S	E	R
R	I	O	S	O	L	M	Q	B	O	O	K	O	L	T
T	F	I	D	T	F	©	L	U	B	L	S	L	O	S
N	N	N	I	E	E	M	B	E	E	F	E	A	P	R
O	O	T	E	E	C	I	V	R	E	S	T	R	A	E
C	C	S	A	V	E	R	O	I	D	U	T	S	R	S

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3/31

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Yesterday's Answer: Monitor
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235-NEWS

North Carolina leaves Oklahoma behind, 72-60



MEMPHIS, Tenn.

(AP)—Blake Griffin might be the nation's best player. North Carolina brushed him aside with a total team effort. Ty Lawson scored 19 points and Danny Green added 18 to lead the top-seeded Tar Heels to a 72-60 win over Griffin and Oklahoma on Sunday in the South Regional final.

North Carolina (32-4) advanced to the Final Four for the second straight year and will play Villanova in the national semifinals.

Griffin scored 23 points with 16 rebounds for Oklahoma, but the second-seeded Sooners (30-6) went 2-for-19 from 3-point range.

"We fully believed we were going to win this basketball game today, but this is how life is sometimes. It doesn't happen the way you want it," Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel said. "I thought the game would've been a lot more interesting if we could've made some shots, but I thought we had some really good looks."

North Carolina reached a record 18th Final Four. UCLA has been to 18, but the Bruins' 1980 appearance was later vacated by the NCAA because of rules violations.

This will be the Tar Heels' ninth Final Four in 19 seasons—and it will be played at Detroit's Ford Field, where they routed Michigan State 98-63 in December. Earlier Sunday, the Spartans also reached the Final Four.

Tyler Hansbrough, North Carolina's big man, scored only eight points, but his team still won with ease.

North Carolina led 61-40 before Oklahoma scored nine straight points, including its first 3-pointer after 15 misses to start the game. Lawson made a couple free throws with 4:12 to play to halt that run.

Hansbrough was The Associated Press player of the year in 2008, and Griffin has made an impressive bid for this year's honor. The battle of big men wasn't much of a contest on the stat sheet, but the Tar Heels set the tone by swarming Griffin early with double teams. He didn't score before making two free throws with 8:29 remaining in the first half.

Both teams appeared tight at the start,

but the Tar Heels loosened up quickly. Lawson pulled up for a jumper from the free throw line that gave North Carolina a 13-2 lead and forced Oklahoma to take a timeout less than six minutes in.

At first, Griffin was content to pass out of the double teams, and Oklahoma accomplished one of its goals by controlling the pace. North Carolina didn't have many early fast breaks and even tossed up several uncharacteristic air balls.

At the other end, however, the Sooners were stagnant. After a 3-pointer by Green put the Tar Heels ahead 28-16, the shot clock ran out on Oklahoma when Griffin was double teamed and the Sooners didn't react quickly enough.

With his teammates shooting poorly, Griffin became more aggressive, scoring Oklahoma's last seven points of the half, but the Sooners still trailed 32-23 at intermission—their lowest-scoring half of the season. Oklahoma scored all its first-half points from the paint or the foul line.

Green scored 14 points in the first half. Hansbrough picked up two fouls in the first seven minutes and played only nine in the half.

North Carolina made its first six shots of the second half, and the Tar Heels were able to maintain a comfortable lead even as Griffin threw down a powerful, one-handed alley-oop dunk at the other end.

North Carolina eventually went ahead 53-38 on a 3-pointer by Lawson.

"It's not hard to see how talented they are throughout the year. I've always been impressed with them," said Taylor Griffin, who scored four points for the Sooners. "They're as good as advertised, I think."

Michigan State 64, Louisville 52

At Indianapolis, Michigan State is marching on to Motown. The Spartans gave the Final Four a hometown feel, stopping overall No. 1 seed Louisville 64-52 Sunday to win the Midwest Regional.

Goran Suton had 19 points and 10 rebounds as the second-seeded Spartans (30-6) reached their fifth Final Four in 11 years—the most trips of any team in the nation during that span.

Only 90 miles from their campus in East Lansing, the Spartans will play



North Carolina guard Ty Lawson (5) gets a shot away in front of Oklahoma forward Blake Griffin (23) in the first half of the men's NCAA tournament South Regional championship college basketball game in Memphis, Tenn., Sunday, March 29, 2009.

Connecticut on Saturday at Ford Field in Detroit. A crowd of 72,000, the largest ever for college basketball's signature event, is expected for each game.

"Detroit, here we come," said coach Tom Izzo, a Michigan native. "I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to that."

The Spartans made it 30 years after Magic Johnson led them to a national title over Larry Bird and Indiana State.

"Detroit needs something, Michigan needs something to feel good about," said Johnson, who was at the game. "And right now, the whole state is feeling good about this Michigan State team."

Along with advancing, the Spartans prevented a Big East blitz in the Final Four—Louisville (31-6) was trying to become the third school from the power-packed conference to make it.

The Cardinals scored 103 points in overwhelming Arizona in the regional semifinal, but barely reached half that total against a rugged, defensive-minded squad. Earl Clark scored 19 points, but coach Rick Pitino's team played without the precision or passion it had Friday night.

Louisville lost for the first time in 14 games. It was the second straight year they were eliminated from the NCAA tournament in the regional final.

Suton carried the Spartans early, scoring 17 points in the first half, and Durrell Summers delivered 10 second-half points.

"They prepared so well the past day and a half," Izzo said. "I didn't know if we could beat them but I thought we had a chance."

It went nothing like Louisville expected.

The Cardinals allowed Michigan State to dictate the pace with their deliberate half-court style, and Louisville's vaunted pressure defense produced no fastbreak points.

Instead, Michigan State relied on its physical style and finally broke the Cardinals.

After going 28 minutes without either team taking more than a three-point lead, the Cardinals broke down.

Louisville came back from a 30-27 halftime deficit to take a 34-32 lead with 15:33 to go.

But the Spartans answered with the first big run of the day, outscoring Louisville 9-2 over a two-minute span for a 41-36 lead.

The Spartans were just getting started.

Michigan State took advantage of the Cardinals poor free-throw shooting to go on a 17-7 run that made it 58-43 with 5:50 to go.

That forced Louisville to rush its offense into bad shots, and with Louisville's rebounders out of position, Michigan State dominated.

The Cardinals made only one basket in the last 5:18 and shot just 38.3 percent from the field.

Longtime NFL, college coach Lou Saban dies at 87

By JOHN KEKIS
AP SPORTS WRITER



Lou Saban, who coached O.J. Simpson in the NFL and ran the New York Yankees for George Steinbrenner during a well-traveled career that spanned five decades, died Sunday. He was 87.

Saban died around 4 a.m. at his home in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., his wife, Joyce, said. He had heart problems for years and recently suffered a fall that required hospitalization, she said.

Saban played football at Indiana University and for the Cleveland Browns of the NFL before embarking on an unmatched head coaching career that included stops with the Boston Patriots and Buffalo Bills of the old American Football League and the Denver Broncos and Bills after the AFL merged with the NFL in 1970, along with college jobs at Miami,

Army, Northwestern and Maryland.

Saban, who was 95-99-7 in 16 seasons of pro football, also was president of the New York Yankees from 1981-82 and coached high school football from 1987-89.

"He has been my friend and mentor for over 50 years, and one of the people who helped shape my life," Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said in a statement. "Lou was tough and disciplined, and he earned all the respect and recognition that came his way. He spent a lifetime leading, teaching and inspiring, and took great satisfaction in making the lives around him better. This is a tremendous loss to me personally."

Saban shared the last name of another prominent football coach, Alabama's Nick Saban. Joyce Saban said the two men might have been second cousins, but said the families weren't exactly sure whether they were related.

Louis Henry Saban was born in Brookfield, Ill. in 1921 and was a 1940

graduate of Lyons Township High School. After starring at Indiana, Saban played for the Browns from 1946-49 and the next year accepted his first head coaching position—at Case Institute of Technology in Cleveland.

In 1955, he took over at Northwestern for a year, then moved to Western Illinois until entering the pro ranks in 1960 to coach the Boston Patriots of the newly formed AFL.

From there, Saban went to the Bills in 1962 and guided them to AFL championships in 1964 and 1965, the only championships the Bills have ever won. After a stint with the Broncos, Saban returned to Buffalo. During his second stint with the Bills from 1972-76, he oversaw O.J. Simpson's record-breaking, 2,003-yard rushing season in 1973.

"He was like a father to me," former Bills defensive back Booker Edgerson said. "He steered me in the right direction. He gave me advice.

Some of it, I didn't like, but isn't that what a father does?"

Edgerson, who also played for Saban at Western Illinois and with the Broncos, said he last saw Saban in October at a Western Illinois banquet honoring the coach.

"Lou Saban was a great teacher," Edgerson said. "He knew how to build football programs. He could have built any program—football, baseball, basketball, whatever. Even though his patience was short-tempered, he allowed players to let out their anxieties and frustrations."

After quitting the Bills in midseason of 1976, Saban spent two years as athletic director at Miami, where he recruited future Buffalo quarterback Jim Kelly.

Saban later became known for how quickly he changed jobs. He coached Army in 1979, was AD at Miami and spent 19 days as athletic director at Cincinnati. He went on to coach high schools, colleges and in the Arena Football League.

Saban spent the 1990s starting or rebuilding programs at places like Peru State, Canton Tech and Alfred State, where he left before the team played its first game. He coached Central Florida in 1983-84.

"I've coached at all levels, covered the gamut, and I've never really seen any difference," Saban said after being hired to coach Alfred in upstate New York in 1994. "My coaching techniques are pretty much the same, with some adjustments for what younger players can and can't do."

Saban spent five years at Canton Tech in northern New York—the longest stint of his career—before leaving after the 2000 season. In one of his last jobs, he coached Division III Chowan State in North Carolina, leaving in 2002 after the team went 0-10.

"He was an original," Joyce Saban said. "He was one of a kind."

Funeral arrangements were incomplete. Joyce Saban said the family would have a mass at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church in North Myrtle Beach on Saturday.

Tiger returns to winning at Bay Hill



ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The clutch shots. The late charge.

An electric birdie putt on the 18th hole at Bay Hill.

Yep, Tiger Woods is back.

With those familiar back-nine heroics and a putt most everyone knew he was going to make, Woods holed a 15-footer for birdie to win the Arnold Palmer Invitational for his first victory since returning from knee surgery.

Woods closed with a 3-under 67 for a one-shot victory over hard-luck Sean O'Hair, matching his largest comeback on the PGA Tour.

"It feels good to be back in contention, to feel the rush," Woods said. "It's been awhile, but God, it felt good."

Just like last year, when Woods made a 25-foot birdie on the final hole at Bay Hill for a one-shot victory, he delivered a high-charged celebration. Instead of slamming his cap to the ground, he turned and ran into the arms of his caddy, who lifted him off his feet.

Then came the meeting with the tournament host.

"What was it I told you last year?"

Palmer said with a wide grin.

Palmer has seen enough of Woods to know what to expect. Woods won at Bay Hill for the sixth time, the fourth PGA Tour event he has won at least that often.

This one was special.

Woods had not been atop the leaderboard since he won the U.S. Open in a 19-hole playoff last June. He had reconstructive surgery on his left knee a week later, and missed the next eight months.

With two indifferent results at World Golf Championships, there were questions whether he would be ready for the Masters in two weeks. Not anymore. He rallied from a five-shot deficit and delivered one crucial



Tiger Woods, left, lifts the trophy for winning the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament as Arnold Palmer looks on in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 29, 2009.

shot after another in fading sunlight.

It was the third time Woods has won at Bay Hill with a birdie on the 72nd hole.

O'Hair made only one birdie and closed with a 73, but he steadied himself along the back nine until a crucial mistake on the 16th hole, when he went at the flag with Woods in the rough. His 7-iron came up short and into the water, leading to a bogey.

"I think what happened is when the sun was going down a little bit, I guess that kind of proved to me that the ball wasn't quite going as far," O'Hair said.

He might be right, for Woods ran into the same problem a hole later. He posed over a 4-iron that he thought was flush, tongue hanging out of his mouth like Michael Jordan when he knew a shot was going in. This one plugged under the lip of the front bunker, and Woods made bogey to fall into a tie.

That set up the dramatic finish with only minutes of daylight remaining, thanks to a two-hour rain delay in the morning.

It was the second straight year that O'Hair had to watch Woods cel-

brate. They were in the final group a year ago when Woods made his big birdie putt to beat Bart Bryant. This one stung even more.

"It's just a little bit disappointing that I couldn't close it," O'Hair said.

Woods finished at 5-under 275 and won \$1.08 million for his 66th career victory. Only once in his career has Woods failed to win a PGA Tour even in the three months leading to the Masters, but more Bay Hill magic took care of that.

Zach Johnson shot 69 and finished third.

Woods was running out of holes until he came up with two clutch putts, the kind he has made throughout his career.

The most pivotal came at the 14th, when he was one shot behind and caught yet another plugged lie under the lip of a bunker. Woods did well to blast out to just over 12 feet, while O'Hair had 15 feet for birdie. Make it, and he could go up by three.

O'Hair narrowly missed, and Woods holed his putt for par. On the next hole, Woods made a 25-foot birdie putt to tie for the lead.

There were three lead changes over the final three holes, and a predictable winner.

"It's like Stevie was saying out there," Woods said of caddy Steve Williams. "This feels like we hadn't left. You just remember how to do it. It hasn't been that long for me, but you just have that feel of what to do. And it's a matter of getting it done."

It was a struggle from the start for O'Hair.

He didn't hit a fairway until the sixth hole, and he didn't have a birdie putt inside 30 feet until the ninth hole. The game was on after a two-shot swing on the third hole, when O'Hair missed the green to the right and made bogey, and Woods made an 8-footer for his second straight birdie to close within two shots.

Woods pulled to within one shot on the par-3 seventh. Standing over the ball with a 7-iron, he backed away when he felt the wind shift ever so slightly, switched to a 6-iron and hit it to 6 feet for a birdie. O'Hair, well left of the flag, three-putted for bogey.

They were separated by one shot for most of the back nine, with momentum seemingly on Woods' side, but not the lead. That didn't come until the 16th hole, and then he needed one more clutch shot to return to a familiar place.

CLEVELAND (AP)—The Cleveland Cavaliers turned 60 and didn't mind one bit.

LeBron James scored 24 points with 12 assists and orchestrated Cleveland's show on and off the floor as the Cavs made more history with a 102-74 win over the Dallas Mavericks on Sunday, extending their winning streak to a franchise record 12 straight.

The Cavs, who earlier this week surpassed the club mark for wins in a season, trailed 35-20 in the first quarter and 49-47 at halftime. But Cleveland outscored Dallas 30-11 in the third quarter and 55-25 in the second half to improve to a league-best 35-1 at home.

Cleveland is the 61st team to win 60 games in the regular season.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 for the Mavericks.

Celtics 103, Thunder 84

At Boston, Paul Pierce had 27 points and Eddie House scored 14 of his 16 in the second half to lead the Celtics.

Glen "Big Baby" Davis had 19 points and 10 rebounds and reserve Mikki Moore scored 12 with 11 boards for Boston. Rajon Rondo had 12 assists to help the Celtics win for the sixth time in seven games despite missing All-Star forward Kevin Garnett, who sat out for 15th time in 19 games to rest a strained right knee.

Russell Westbrook scored 23 points and Kevin Durant added 21 for the

Cavaliers top Mavs for 12th straight win

Thunder, which lost their third straight and fifth of six.

Hawks 86, Lakers 76

At Atlanta, Mike Bibby scored 21 points—including an improbable 3 off the top of the backboard—and the Hawks took advantage of a tough outing for Kobe Bryant, beating Los Angeles to knock the Lakers another game behind Cleveland in the race for the NBA's best overall record.

The Lakers had won five straight, locking up the top seed in the Western Conference, but an ailing Bryant had just 17 points on 7-of-19 shooting.

Pau Gasol was the only other Los Angeles player in double figures, leading with 21 points, as the Lakers made just 35 percent (28-of-80) from the field.

Zaza Pachulia had 11 points and 13 rebounds, leading a strong effort by the thin Hawks bench. The reserves combined for 29 points and 15 rebounds.

Hornets 90, Spurs 86

At New Orleans, Chris Paul scored 26 points, hitting three clutch free throws with 7.1 seconds left to lead the depleted Hornets.

David West had 23 points, going 11-of-11 on free throws, and grabbed 16 rebounds. The Hornets were 32-of-33 from the foul line overall, making their



last 31, to compensate for 37.5 percent shooting.

Tony Parker had 20 points for San Antonio. Tim Duncan had 19 points and 15 rebounds and Manu Ginobili added 17 points.

The Hornets came into the game missing three key players because of injuries to center Tyson Chandler (left ankle) and Peja Stojakovic (back) and the one-game suspension of primary reserve James Posey, who was punished for throwing a ball at the feet of a referee during a loss in New York on Friday night.

Raptors 134, Bulls 129, OT

At Toronto, Chris Bosh had 31 points and 15 rebounds and Andrea Bargnani scored 28 points for the Raptors, who extended their winning streak to a season-high four games.

Jose Calderon had 22 points and a career-high 19 assists, Shawn Marion scored 16 points and Pops Mensah-Bonsu added 13 for Toronto.

Ben Gordon scored 37 points and Derrick Rose had 23 as Chicago failed to record its first five-game winning streak since Dec. 11-19, 2006.

Joakim Noah had 16 and Brad Miller had 14 for the Bulls.

Timberwolves 108, Nets 99

At Minneapolis, Mike Miller had 22 points, 10 rebounds and five assists to help Minnesota snap a seven-game losing skid.

Ryan Gomes scored 21 and Kevin Love added 16 points and 11 boards for the Timberwolves, who had lost 18 of their last 20 games.

Vince Carter had 36 points and eight rebounds for the Nets, who have lost four in a row.

Pistons 101, 76ers 97

At Auburn Hills, Mich., Tayshaun Prince scored 21 points, Rodney Stuckey added 16 points and Allen Iverson returned from a back injury to help Detroit gain ground in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Iverson, who missed 16 games, scored eight points in 22 minutes as Detroit pulled within 1 1/2 games of Philadelphia for sixth place in the conference.

Philadelphia's Samuel Dalembert left in the first quarter with a leg injury and didn't return.

Richard Hamilton had 14 points and seven assists for the Pistons, and Antonio McDyess scored 13.

Pacers 124, Wizards 115

At Indianapolis, Danny Granger

scored 31 points and rookie Brandon Rush continued his late-season tear with 29 points and 10 rebounds.

Starting his third straight game, Rush matched the career-high 29 points he had at Chicago on Saturday night. He had 10 points during the first seven minutes of the third quarter, when Indiana widened a 59-52 halftime lead to 84-66.

Jarrett Jack added 19 points for the Pacers. Washington was led by Caron Butler with 31 points and 13 rebounds and Antawn Jamison with 29 points. Javaris Crittenton added a season-high 19 points for the Wizards.

Kings 126, Suns 118

At Sacramento, Calif., Jason Thompson had 21 points and Spencer Hawes added a career-high 20 points and 10 rebounds for the Kings.

Steve Nash scored 31 points for Phoenix which went 0-3 on its road trip and trails Dallas by four games for the eighth and final spot in the Western Conference playoff race. The Suns have eight games remaining, including four of their final six on the road.

Andres Nocioni and Francisco Garcia each had 19 points for the Kings, who had lost seven of their eight previous games. Kevin Martin scored 17 and Beno Udrih added 16 points and seven assists.

Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points and nine rebounds, and Grant Hill 19 points for Phoenix.

Tenorio leads Big League in batting

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER



E.J. Tenorio of the D-9ers averaged .556 on a 5-for-9 performance at the plate to top the batting category in the Big League Division of the 2009

Saipan Little League played at the Francisco “Tan Ko” Palacios Ballpark.

As of March 10, Tenorio also has the most RBIs with four.

But the D-9ers are still groping for form after a seesaw performance in their first four games of the season.

They won their first game against Team Aztecs, 8-7, but lost to the Tanapag Falcons, 4-1.

The D-9ers then won again over the Ol’Aces, 2-1, and lost to the IT&E Fielders, 7-4.

Nick Cruz of the Aztecs went 5-for-10 for a .500 average, good for second place in batting.

The other players included in the list, based on eight or more at-bats, were Falcons’ Ben Camacho (.455), D-9ers’ David Camacho (.400), D-9ers’ Jesse Sablan (.375), Aztecs’ Tim Cruz (.364), Falcons’ Ike Aldan (.333), Fielders’ Zack Tudela (.333), Fielders’ Ben Flores

(.333), and Fielders’ Iaconis Rasa (.300).

Tim Cruz had the most number of runs scored with six, while eight players have so far scored a double, including Nick Cruz Jr., David Camacho, Jesse Sablan, and Elliot Tenorio of D-9ers, Anthony Aldan of the Hustlers, and Zack Tudela, Ike Aldan, and Vicente Camacho of the Falcons.

There were seven players who made a triple—David Camacho, Elliot Tenorio, and Giovanni Ayuyu of the Husters, Anthony Tenorio, Ike Aldan, and Ben Aldan of D-9ers, and Ben Flores.

Four pitchers had a 0.00 ERA with Vicente Camacho and Iaconis Rasa having pitched 6.2 innings, while Anthony Aldan threw 5.1 innings and Drew Magofna appeared in five innings.

Also in the list were D-9ers’ Jared Camacho (0.55), Ol’Aces’ Jimmy Brel (1.17), D-9ers’ David Camacho (1.68), Aztecs’ Nick Cruz (2.52), and Fielders’ Elton Santos (3.00).

In strikeouts, Santos was tops with 19 followed by Jared Camacho (16), Vicente Camacho (15), Giovanni Ayuyu (11), and Nick Muna (10).

E.J. Tenorio waves as he approaches the dugout after scoring a run for the D-9ers.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



HEO

From Page 28

beat Woo Suk Chang, 6-1, 6-3, to notch a semis ticket.

The 17-year-old Heo stayed at PIC after his semis win to watch Schuler play Race in the other semis game.

“He’s good, but I think he is still adjusting to the hot weather here. He’s been here for less than a year and it’s only his second competition on Saipan,” said Heo, who used the PIC tournament to warm up for two events in Korea next month.

FC ARIRANG

From Page 28

in the battle for third place. Each game was played in two 25-minute halves. A win gave a team three points, one for a draw and none for a loss. Tiebreaks were decided by (in order) points, goal difference, and more goals.

FC Arirang debuted with a 2-0 win over MFC with Kim Sung In scoring in the 25th minute and Kim Kwang Sik making his first goal in the tournament in the 49th minute.

The eventual champion’s next chal-

lenger was Wild Bill’s and the game ended at 2pm and lasted for more than an hour, exposing the two finalists to scorching heat. Besides the hot weather, Schuler was also a bit bothered by the wind, as on several occasions, his ball went to a different direction after he tossed it for serving.

Schuler then tried to bring the game to the net, but it was just not his day, as Heo found ways to counter the former’s attack, going for strong groundstrokes.

Joining Heo in the winner’s list were Dong Min Lee, Denis Karyakin, Thea Minor, Christian Miller, Carl Dela Cruz, Melody Johnson, Tammy Acker-

man, and Eun Kyong Lee.

Dong Min won in the men’s 4.0 finals via forfeit over Bong Gamab. Lee advanced to the title game after beating Fernando Cajigan, 6-4, 6-1, while Gamab downed Lope Padilla, 1-6, 6-3, 6-6 (4-0 forfeit).

Karyakin, a PIC Clubmate, prevailed over Dong Ik Jang, 6-4, 7-5, in the men’s 3.0, while Minor topped Jodel Fernandez in the women’s open, 6-1, 6-1.

Miller settled a score with Jones, taking the boys’ 14-and-under title this time after a 6-2, 6-3 triumph. Jones beat Miller in the Coconut Classic.

ute) and Joe Miller (40th) to enter the win column in Group A.

In Group B, Inter got one goal each from Peter Loken (15th minute), Masa Otsaka (30th minute), and Arkie Resaura (49th) for a 3-0 thrashing of Korea Junior.

Otsaka and Loken also scored in the 20th minute and 44th minute, respectively, in Inter’s 2-0 triumph over Club TDHC to advance to the title game.

Club TDCH finished second in Group B after forcing a 1-1 draw against Korea Junior.

In the battle for third place, Wild Bill’s won over Club TDHC, 3-1. Matt Hollay

LANDSLIDE

From Page 28

Someone from the crowd then sang Black Eyed Peas’ *Bebot*.

The 20-year-old Norita of Marianas Elite fell to a 2-2 win-loss record.

Folayang, the 25-year-old reigning champion in his weight class in the

Universal Reality Combat Championship, thanked everyone in attendance for coming out to watch.

URCC is the first professional mixed martial arts event based in the Philippines.

It was his first time to fight outside his country. He was accompanied by husband-and-wife mixed martial arts promoters Alvin and Bubbles Aguilar.

“Saipan is beautiful and the people too,” Folayang said during a brief interview with ring announcer Brad Ruszala a few seconds after the one-sided affair.

Folayang, who is under Team Lakai and earned the nickname Landslide because of how he dominates his opponents, said he will immediately hit the gym to train for his

Dela Cruz made it two in a row after clinching the boys’ 10-and-under title with a 6-0 win over Jun Myong, while Ackerman denied Emily Jones back-to-back titles in the girls’ 10-and-under, after winning in the finals, 6-4. Emily dominated last month’s Coconut Classic.

Returning Johnson defeated Neghar Rastguiry in the girls’ 14-and-under finals, 6-1, 6-3, while Eun Kyon ruled the women’s 4.0 after downing Lydia Tan, 6-3, 6-2.

Participants in the singles competition will be back at the PIC hardcourts this weekend for the doubles events.

made the first goal for Wild Bills in the 19th minute, while Jetsada Phonsutjit and Brad Ruszala nailed one goal each in the 33th and 40th minute, respectively.

Besides winning the championship trophy, FC Arirang also took home \$150 cash. Inter won \$100, while Wild Bill’s pocketed \$50.

Inter’s Chris Nelson was named MVP during the brief awards ceremony. Other individual awardees were FCA’s Kim Sung In (most goals), and Wild Bill’s Nong (best defender).

The Han Nam Cup was organized by the Korean Football Association of Saipan.

next big fight back in Manila.

He will be fighting in the Colt 45 URCC 14 “Agression” most likely against another opponent from Saipan.

Aguilar said they will invite and negotiate for a welterweight (155 lbs) fighter from the CNMI to go up against him.

Assessing his sterling performance, Folayang said he saw that he could win the fight and immediately went for it.

Cadagat 22, Opone 20, Palero 18, Usi 12, Esdrelon 10, Carino 6, David 4, Macoto 4, Manglona 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-26, 43-45, 73-72, 94-94, 103-100 (OT).

Second Game

PIC 108 – Sanciango 55, Barbo 24, Abuy 9, Tudela 9, Tolentino 4, Williams 3, Dacanay 2, Fernandez 2.

Aqua 98 – Camacho 25, Gapor 15, Ruluked 15, Fitial 14, Acosta 7, Aquino 6, Torres 4, Mc. Achas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-23, 44-49, 70-all, 108-98.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Boston	56	19	.747	—
Philadelphia	37	35	.514	17 1/2
New Jersey	30	43	.411	25
New York	29	44	.397	26
Toronto	28	45	.384	27

Central Division

y-Cleveland	60	13	.822	—
Detroit	36	37	.493	24
Chicago	36	39	.480	25
Milwaukee	31	43	.419	29 1/2
Indiana	31	43	.419	29 1/2

Southeast Division

y-Orlando	54	18	.750	—
x-Atlanta	43	31	.581	12
Miami	39	34	.534	15 1/2
Charlotte	33	40	.452	21 1/2
Washington	17	58	.227	38 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	48	25	.658	—
Houston	48	26	.649	0 1/2
New Orleans	45	27	.625	2 1/2
Dallas	43	30	.589	5
Memphis	18	54	.250	29 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	48	26	.649	—
Portland	46	27	.630	1 1/2
Utah	45	27	.625	2
Minnesota	21	53	.284	27
Oklahoma City	20	53	.274	27 1/2

Pacific Division

z-LA Lakers	58	15	.795	—
Phoenix	40	34	.541	18 1/2
Golden State	25	48	.342	33
LA Clippers	18	56	.243	40 1/2
Sacramento	16	56	.222	41 1/2

Yesterday’s Games

Cleveland 102, Dallas 74
Boston 102, Oklahoma City 84
Atlanta 86, LA Lakers 76
New Orleans 90, San Antonio 86
Toronto 134, Chicago 129 (OT)
Minnesota 108, New Jersey 99
Detroit 101, Philadelphia 97
Indiana 124, Washington 115
Sacramento 126, Phoenix 118

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Tiger Woods	68	69	71	67	275
Sean O’Hair	67	65	71	73	276
Zach Johnson	72	69	68	69	278
John Senden	70	69	73	67	279
Nick Watney	67	71	73	68	279
Pat Perez	70	70	70	69	279
Scott Verplank	70	69	71	69	279
Kenny Perry	70	71	72	67	280
Daniel Chopra	68	71	72	69	280
Jason Gore	65	70	74	71	280
Ben Crane	70	69	75	67	281
Kevin Na	69	70	76	66	281
Padraig Harrington	70	68	73	69	281
Lucas Glover	71	71	69	70	281
Webb Simpson	70	71	70	70	281
Robert Allenby	71	65	74	72	281
Vaughn Taylor	70	68	74	70	282
Bob Estes	74	67	71	70	282
Lee Janzen	67	71	73	71	282
Ryuji Imada	70	66	73	73	282
Brandt Snedeker	73	70	67	72	282
George McNeill	70	72	72	69	283
James Nitties	70	71	74	68	283
Charles Howell III	71	68	74	70	283
Hunter Mahan	67	71	74	71	283
Chad Campbell	68	74	69	72	283
Jeev Milkha Singh	71	68	74	71	284
Mark Wilson	67	71	74	72	284
Corey Pavin	72	70	70	72	284
Justin Rose	75	67	73	70	285
Johnson Wagner	69	75	72	69	285
Stewart Cink	70	71	72	72	285
Cliff Kresge	74	68	71	72	285
Mathew Goggin	70	72	71	72	285
Tim Herron	66	72	74	73	285
Steve Marino	73	68	75	70	286
Relief Goosen	74	71	72	69	286
Paul Goydos	74	70	74	68	286
Steve Lowery	69	71	77	69	286
Trevor Immelman	71	73	71	72	287
Mike Weir	71	72	72	72	287
Brian Gay	68	74	72	73	287
J.B. Holmes	73	69	72	73	287
Heath Slocum	69	75	72	71	287
Graeme McDowell	71	69	73	74	287
Tom Lehman	72	73	72	70	287
J.J. Henry	68	71	79	69	287
Jeff Overton	66	73	75	74	288
David Toms	71	73	71	73	288
Chris DiMarco	73	70	71	74	288
Rocco Mediate	68	76	70	74	288
D.A. Points	73	70	73	73	289
Brad Faxon	70	72	75	72	289
Jerry Kelly	69	73	76	71	289
Marc Turnesa	72	73	74	70	289
Stuart Appleby	67	72	80	70	289
Tommy Armour III	70	74	76	69	289
Peter Lonard	72	72	77	68	289
Todd Hamilton	72	68	75	75	290
Bill Lunde	72	73	72	73	290
Jeff Klauk	74	70	76	70	290
Bill Haas	70	75	76	69	290
Vijay Singh	74	70	77	69	290
Boo Weekley	72	70	73	77	292
Louis Oosthuizen	72	71	76	73	292
Skip Kendall	68	73	75	77	293
Aaron Baddeley	75	68	76	74	293
Kevin Streelman	71	72	76	74	293
Richard S. Johnson	70	74	76	73	293
Brian Davis	71	73	76	75	295
Oliver Wilson	72	70	78	75	295
Woody Austin	72	72	76	76	296
Bart Bryant	71	74	75	79	299

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

TINIAN INVITATIONAL CAGING

Hyatt	4	1
Aqua	3	2
Tinian Dynasty	2	2
World Resort	2	2
PIC	1	3
Fiesta/Grand	1	3

NMITF's Second Leapfrog Race



The riders and runners get set for the Second Leapfrog Race last March 21 at Paupau Beach.

PHOTOS By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Tom Linden and Champ Untalan pose at the finish line after teaming up to win the Second Leapfrog Race at Paupau Beach



Husband and wife organizers Joshua and Mamiko Berger at the finish line of the Second Leapfrog Race at Paupau Beach.



Veteran triathlete Lewie Tenorio checks on his bike.



Runners-up Matt Mancao and Federico Fernandez pose with their bike at Paupau Beach.



Golden Boy Fred Camacho dashes to the finish line as another rider complete the race.



Long distance runner Ronald Villafria completes the run portion of the race.



Tiger returns to winning at Bay Hill

The clutch shots. The late charge. An electric birdie putt on the 18th hole at Bay Hill.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

North Carolina leaves Oklahoma behind, 72-60

Blake Griffin might be the nation's best player. North Carolina brushed him aside with a total team effort.

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28 TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2009

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Heo leads winners in PIC netfest

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

A much improved service game lifted CNMI top junior netter Ji Hoon Heo to a straight set win over Kirk Schuler in their title match in the men's open singles division of the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

"I think I made 90 percent of my serves. He [Schuler] had a hard time receiving my first serves. I also made a couple of good forehand returns," said Heo shortly after scoring a 6-4, 6-0 win over Schuler.

Heo, who said his service improved a lot after competing off-island, faced Schuler for the first time, but the former has been hitting balls with the latter in the past months before the PIC netfest.

Heo's victory foiled Schuler's bid for back-to-back titles. Schuler, a former Drake University standout, won the men's open singles division of the 2009 Coconut Classic Tennis Tournament, beating Jeff Race in a closely contested finals, 9-8 (7-4). Heo missed this year's Coconut Classic, as he was off-island, competing in New Zealand.

Schuler faced Race, anew, in the semifinals Saturday and advanced to the title game after a 6-0, 6-3 triumph.

Heo gained the first finals ticket following a 6-0, 6-2 victory against former junior player Nicolas Son, who had to

See HEO on Page 26



Ji Hoon Heo, left, serves against Kirk Schuler during their title match in the men's open singles division of the 9th Annual PIC Tennis Championships Sunday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan World Resort boosts playoffs chances

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan World Resort pulled off a 103-100 overtime win over Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan/Saipan Grand Hotel in the 2009 Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino Invitational Basketball League last week at the Tinian Municipal Gymnasium to strengthen its playoff bid.

World Resort improved to a 2-2 record for a tie for third to fourth place with host Tinian Dynasty.

In the other game last week, Pacific Islands Club stunned Aqua Resort Club, 108-98. The victory was PIC's first in four games. The loss gave Aqua a 3-2 card and although it dropped its last game in the single-round regular season, the Achugao-based team still made it to the semifinal round, joining Hyatt Regency Saipan, which finished the elimination with a 4-1 slate.

PIC and Fiesta/Grand are tied for the fifth and last spot with their

See SAIPAN on Page 26

FC Arirang tops Han Nam Market Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

FC Arirang hoisted the 2009 Han Nam Market Cup after outclassing Inter Godfather's in the championship match, 1-0, Sunday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

Kim Kwang Sik scored the winning



goal in the 40th minute, as FC Arirang went undefeated in four games in the one-day soccer tournament.

Seven teams joined the Han Nam Market Cup with squads divided into two pools. Joining FC Arirang in Pool A was Multinational FC, Wild Bill's

Independents, and Marianas Pacific United. Inter was in Pool B, along with Korea Junior and Club Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

A single-round robin format was implemented in each pool with the top two teams in each group colliding in the finals and the runners-up playing

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Members of FC Arirang pose with their trophy after outclassing Inter Godfather's in the championship match in the 2009 Han Nam Market Cup Sunday night at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Eduard "Landslide" Fodayang pummels Jerome Norita with left and right combinations to the head in last Saturday's semi main event in Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready" at the Saipan World Resort.

Landslide victory for Fodayang

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REPORTER

Eduard "Landslide" Fodayang of the Philippines became the only off-island fighter to win in Gorilla Warfare MMA "Battle Ready" after fashioning out a first round technical knockout of Jerome Norita in the semi main event.

Fodayang, who streaked to his fourth win in as many bouts, used his quickness and power to immediately bring Norita



down to the ground.

The Filipino fighter then proceeded to pummel Norita with left and right combinations to the head and shoulders and the match ended in the 52-second mark of the first round.

Seconds later Fodayang went to Norita's corner to acknowledge his opponent's effort to the loud cheer of the huge crowd.

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